

## Mr Sadat ready to continue talks with Israel alone

President Sadat said on American television yesterday that he is ready to negotiate with Israel alone, if necessary, even at Geneva. He would submit the results to an Arab summit. Israel has accepted his invitation to preparatory

## Cairo meeting goes on despite prospect of empty Arab chairs

From Edward Mordimer, Cairo, Nov 27

President Sadat has now set the scene for separate negotiations between Israel and Egypt, even while protesting that he will never seek a bilateral agreement. Unabashed by the prospect that other Arab states as well as the two superpowers may stay away from the talks, he has called for Cairo next Saturday, he said in an American television interview this morning.

It is for everyone to decide for himself. But if the Israelis only come, I shall start the conference. If everything goes OK in Cairo and no one attends except one or two, we shall be proceeding to Geneva also.

In a speech to the Egyptian Parliament yesterday Mr Sadat announced that he was inviting the United States and the Soviet Union to prepare for a resumption of the Geneva peace conference.

Israel has accepted the invitation to the talks while Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have announced that they will boycott them. It is thought unlikely that Jordan, Lebanon or the Soviet Union will be willing to attend in Syria's absence, and if the Soviet Union is not there the United States, as the chairman, may well feel it is more tactful to stay too.

In the television interview Mr Sadat spoke of the prospects of a Geneva meeting with the Israelis alone. He said: "If it proves to be a success and we can reach a settlement, in this case, I shall be asking for an Arab summit and I shall put before them what I have reached. But mark this, this time I shall be proceeding until the end of the way."

This appears to mean that if other Arab parties decide to boycott the Geneva conference,

talks in Cairo starting next Saturday. Syria and the PLO will boycott the talks and it is thought unlikely that Jordan, Lebanon or the Soviet Union will come. The rejectionist Arab states are to meet in Libya on Thursday.



President Sadat (top) makes his conference proposal to the Egyptian Parliament, and Mr Begin accepts.

The Administration's slow response partly reflects the fact that most of Washington has been on a holiday for Thanksgiving. More significantly, senior members of the Administration have only the latest Egyptian initiative only a few hours before Mr Sadat addressed the Egyptian Parliament.

Since then Mr Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, and Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, have been working hard to keep up with developments.

## Mr Steel would quit as leader if party decided to end Labour pact against his wishes

By Fred Emery, Political Editor

Mr David Steel is making clear to friends that he would not carry on as Liberal leader if his party ultimately decided to end the pact with the Labour Government against his wishes. The chances of that happening, which had seemed remote, have moved somewhat closer since the Liberal Council on Saturday put the party on standby for a special assembly to consider ending the pact.

Mr Steel, who was with his family in Scotland yesterday, was unavailable for comment. But his associates made it clear that his mood is one of determination to fight for continuation of the pact to the last, not simply to issue a resignation threat.

Mr Steel clearly now needs and expects the Prime Minister and the Government to make the pact seem worthwhile.

The Liberal leader, after being harangued by firemen on a tour of north-west England, has confided his irritation over the fact that he is doing more to stand by government policy than a number of Labour Party leaders. That irritation has apparently coloured his attitude towards his own party's confrontation.

While it is being said that Mr Callaghan could carry on for the present with Scottish and Welsh nationalist MPs supporting him, it may be doubted whether the Prime Minister would really part company with the assurance of Liberal support.

The potential detonator for demolition is the way the Labour Party votes on proportional representation for the elections to the European Assembly. That vote could come in about ten days' time. At that point the Liberals must decide what to do. Instead of rejecting the issue they have, however, left themselves one fallback position of deciding next spring the Liberal Council meeting in Derby on Saturday was told.

That fall back position is that if PR was narrowly defeated next month, Liberals could stay their hand if the Government undertook to reinstate it in an amendment in the House of Lords and put that to a final Commons vote.

But Liberal inquiries are being made for theatres and halls in Manchester and Birmingham in which to hold a special assembly during the forthcoming session. That would become ineluctable if Labour MPs oblige the Liberals to implement the direct contingency of the Liberal resolution passed on Saturday.

Its key passage ran: "If the House of Commons fails to pass the regional list system for direct elections to the European Assembly, which is an essential part of the Liberal programme, the Liberal Party shall support it, a special meeting of the assembly shall be summoned."

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly, with an estimated 90 per cent of the 150 members attending. Its movers disputed suggestions

that the resolution left any discretion.

It simply empowered three "wise men", Mr Geoffrey Tordoff, the party president, Mr Griffith Evans, chairman, and Mr Michael Meadowcroft, chairman of the assembly committee, "to decide whether the situation defined has arisen".

Suggestions that Mr Steel might be coming on that group, or friends on it, to declare a draw, as it were, and so elude the special assembly, were challenged last night.

Mr Michael Steel, party president-elect and mover of the Derby resolution, said that the strong views of those attending the private meeting of the party's executive committee on Friday made such evasion "very unlikely".

Mr Steel claimed that the Liberal Party was in fact united over wanting to make the pact with Labour work. "PR is the test of whether Labour MPs want the pact to continue", he said.

He suggested that the "real situation" would allow the speculation over political hypotheses, was "the real chance" that PR would after all pass the Commons, and that Mr Steel's leadership would emerge strengthened.

At Derby Mr Steel could point to the failure, by a vote of 76 to 71, of a motion demanding the immediate scrapping of the pact with Labour. The narrowness of the vote reveals the "real situation" of the supposed unity of the party.

## Rhodesian raid across border lasts six days

From Nicholas Ashford, Johannesburg, Nov 27

Fighting was believed to be continuing today in the vicinity of Chimio in central Mozambique after an attack last week by the Rhodesian armed forces against guerrilla camps belonging to the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu).

So far the only confirmation of the attack has come from Mozambique, who last week announced that Rhodesia had launched its biggest raid ever into Mozambique territory. The Rhodesians so far have not commented on the Mozambique statement.

Salisbury says there can be no doubt that the principle of one man one vote is the immediate initiative for a settlement with the internally based nationalist leaders.

It would appear therefore that Rhodesia's tactics are to surround the Zambezi river, the Patriotic Front in the field and so allow the internal negotiations the maximum amount of time to get off the ground. It is also a way of demonstrating to the guerrillas based in the area that they do not have an army of their own, that they can count on Rhodesian military support if they should become the future government.

Lesaka: Zambia said today it had shot down a Rhodesian military aircraft which yesterday had been seen in the air over the border. The aircraft was shot down by a Zambian anti-aircraft gun.

A Government spokesman said the incident occurred at Feta border post, at a point where the Rhodesian, Mozambique and Zambian borders meet almost due east of here—Agencia France-Press.

Khongo, although it is not known whether they were in Chimio at the time.

At the end of last week Mozambique radio reported that more Rhodesian troops had been landed by helicopter and had set up a base in the area.

The Mozambique had planned to take journalists to Chimio at the weekend to inspect the damage done during the attacks but this did not materialize.

It would seem evident that the attack has been deliberately timed to coincide with last Thursday's acceptance by Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, of the principle of one man one vote.

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## Four killed in falls on mountains

Four people died in falls on mountains at the weekend.

A man and a woman were killed on Snowdon, Snowdonia, On Hebray, the 3,000ft mountain in the Lake District, a man and his young daughter plunged 400ft to their deaths.

The man who died on Snowdon yesterday was Mr Philip Neil Hamilton, aged 21, of New Scotland, but hope to deploy 5,000 people in a demonstration against one of the bases next year.

It was time for a national debate about what would come after the Polish submarines, Mr John Cox, the campaign's retiring chairman, said.

"There is need for public discussion and an inquiry if the decision is not to be taken behind closed doors", he added.

But his newly elected successor, Mr Bruce Kent, a former chairman of War on Want, was optimistic. He said: "If we cannot win now there must be something wrong with us."

"Never, I should think, in the last 15 years has there been a moment more ripe for rethinking Britain's nuclear position. The contrary view to ours is hardly maintained by the Daily Telegraph. We are pushing at a door which is already beginning to open."

## Mr Begin quick to accept Egyptian invitation

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 27

Israel has accepted President Sadat's call to a Cairo summit conference on Tuesday, the General Middle East peace talks without waiting for a formal invitation or a Cabinet decision. The announcement was made last night after Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, contacted with a group of ministers representing the parties in his coalition.

He reported to the full Cabinet this morning and said it was still not clear whether the meeting is to be held at the end of the year or on a technical level.

However, the Prime Minister, who is due to fly to Britain on Friday for a two-postponed

state visit, later told journalists that he was not going to realize his wish to visit Egypt this time. The Government will be asked to appoint a delegation after the formal invitation is received and the latest developments will be debated in the Knesset tomorrow.

Mr Begin said that if the Arab Government invited to Cairo boycott the conference the Israelis will still hold bilateral talks with the Egyptians.

Asked about reports that the Egyptian had rejected the Palestine Liberation Organisation, he said the Egyptians could ask whomever they wished, but "we shall never conduct negotiations with an

organization of murderous terrorists, not in Geneva, not in Cairo, nor on the moon."

This is more liberal than the Likud Government's election programme, which expressed readiness for territorial compromise in Sinai and on the Golan Heights but maintained that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should not be given over to "foreign rule".

Mr Dayan's formula was close to that of the Labour Alignment, his former party which expresses readiness for territorial compromise on all fronts.

President Sadat had heard an explanation of Labour's views in the Knesset from Mr Shimon Peres, the party leader, and said: "There should be no Palestinian state on the West Bank and that we should not go back to the 1967 lines."

According to reports here, so far unconfirmed, the Rhodesian attack started last Tuesday and involved units of the crack Special Air Service as well as the Rhodesian Light Infantry. Aircraft and helicopters were also used in the attack.

Sources in the Rhodesian capital have claimed that up to 600 guerrillas may have been killed during this attack. There has also been speculation that one of the aims of the attack was to eliminate the two most important ZANLA leaders, Mr Josiah Tongogara and Mr Rex

## Machismo is written off officially in Portugal

From Our Correspondent, Lisbon, Nov 27

Portugal's new civil code is a basic article on the "machismo" of the Portuguese male. It gives a wife equal rights with her husband, illegitimate children the same rights as legitimate ones, and allows a man to take his wife's surname if he wants to.

Machismo represents all the male prerogatives which have kept women in a subservient position here.

This new code has now been officially approved and published in Lisbon's Republic of the government gazette. It comes into force on April 1.

Other innovations include 18 as the coming-of-age year for both sexes, and marriage at 16,

## Four printing unions in talks about merger

By Christopher Thomas, London Reporter

Four unions in the printing industry have begun formal merger talks in an attempt to create a single, 150,000-member union by the end of next year.

A sense of urgency surrounds the discussions because of imminent plans by some newspaper managements to introduce advanced printing methods that will make some of the traditional crafts obsolete.

The merger would reduce the printing industry unions to two, both of about the same size, making it easier to present a united stand on new technology proposals.

There have been negotiations before, but they did not reach such an advanced stage or involve so many unions. And they did not have the

early prospect of new technology to provide an impetus.

The preliminary ground has been covered in informal meetings, and amalgamation panels from each union are ready to start drawing up a rule book.

The panels met for three days last week and made progress on the procedures to be adopted for the drafting of a new constitution. Any agreement will have to be put to the memberships by ballot.

The unions are the National Graphical Association (NGA), whose members include typesetters, compositors, foundry workers and machine managers; the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Nesop), whose members work in the machine room; the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers,

Engravers and Process Workers (Slade); and the National Union of Wellcoverers, Designers and Allied Trades (Nwdat), which has its main strength in the Manchester area.

To unravel the complicated structures of the four unions and present a single rule book will be a formidable task, especially in such a brief time. The amalgamation panels will have to negotiate many pitfalls, not least the delicate issue of demarcation lines.

The union not involved in the talks is the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), whose members work in warehousing and distribution.

An amalgamation between the new body, if it is created, and Sogat is the ultimate aim, but that is a more long-term matter.

NGA members have most to fear from new technology and their leaders are anxious to forge tight links with all unions engaged in the new paper industry, including the National Union of Journalists.

The NUJ will vote on proposals at its annual conference next year that journalists should not operate new equipment that deprives any other worker of his normal duties, which is a reference to "direct input" by reporters into the printing process.

The NGA has been giving strong support to striking journalists in Darlington, causing the closure of several newspapers. Such support is virtually unprecedented, and to many it illustrates the NGA's desire to build a close relationship with the NUJ.

Move to end strike, page 4

## Cabinet will resign today in Japan

The Japanese Cabinet will resign today and a new Council of Ministers will be appointed to deal with the threat of international protectionism and the problems of Japan's trade surplus, Mr Fukuda, the Prime Minister, announced at a television press conference.

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## S African election

The South African ruling National Party has put up English-speaking candidates in the Cape Province to attract English speakers in the forthcoming general election. The main battle in the province, however, will be between the conservative New Republic Party, which is a supporter of the United Party, and the Liberal Progressive Federal Party.

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## Call to investigate Polish ships deal

An urgent investigation is being sought into the terms of the £15m Polish ship deal signed last week.

Mr Michael Smith, leader of the Opposition's Industry Committee, has asked Mr Edward Du Cann, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, to call an emergency session and question those involved. Page 19

## Labour EEC talks

The full Cabinet and the Labour Party's National Executive Committee are to meet today with the aim of formulating an agreed policy on the EEC.

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## Marseilles metro

Marseilles began enjoying its new non-polluting metro at the weekend, the first few days being free-free. Government ministers did not attend the opening.

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## New era of Irish economic links

A new period of economic cooperation between London, Dublin and Belfast has started since the September summit between Mr Callaghan and Mr Lynch. Transport and the economy are among areas being reviewed.

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## Fraser difficulties

Personal issues, particularly the tax avoidance schemes operated by some Australian politicians, are still holding the attention of voters, who will decide on December 10 whether to return Mr Malcolm Fraser's Government to office. Opinion polls indicate there might be an upset.

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## NUT urges ban on questionnaire

The National Union of Teachers is to ask its members and chief education officers not to reply to the Government's questionnaire on the curriculum. It fears interference and suggests submitting general memoranda instead.

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Enigma of the pipe: Why any pleasure is found in cigar and pipe smoking has puzzled a research worker.

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Amsterdam: Christian Democrat and Liberal leaders in Holland agree to form a right-wing coalition.

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Delhi: Indian journalists assert that a free press has no "irresponsible right" to oppose governments.

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## The Why, When, Where and How of Hine Cognac

# When Hine?

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## HOME NEWS

## A new era of economic links between Dublin, London and Belfast

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

A new era of economic co-operation between London, Dublin and Belfast has been said publicly by either the Irish or British governments for the first time.

After the September summit meeting between Mr Callaghan and Mr Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister, two sets of joint committees were set up to facilitate regular contact between senior civil servants. One dealt with co-operation between Dublin and London and the other, regarded as the more controversial, between Dublin and Belfast.

Both committees are understood to have met unanimously within recent weeks, with satisfactory results.

A meeting in London between British and Irish officials is understood to have agreed that the three broad areas of co-operation will be transport, communications and economic planning.

One plan being pressed hard by the Irish delegation is the establishment of a duty-free area between the two countries to allow travellers to make purchases of tax-free drink, cigarettes and perfumes. It is believed there is opposition from the British Customs and Excise.

Because of the extreme political sensitivity, cross-border economic co-operation has had a chequered history, leading to many anomalies that have frustrated members of both governments.

In Belfast, political circles it is noted with irony that co-operation has increased with the PIRA, whose election in July was widely regarded as a threat to Anglo-Irish relations.

Until the historic meeting in 1965 between Mr Sean Lemass, the Irish Prime Minister, and his Ulster counterpart, Mr Terence O'Neill (now Lord O'Neill of the Maine) cross-

border co-operation and consultation was virtually unheard of.

Their contacts led to the building of an interconnector between the electricity grids of the two countries, which has been bombed five times since 1969 and is now out of action. Joint promotion of tourism was another early Belfast-Dublin scheme effectively sabotaged by the Provisional IRA.

It is understood that both subjects will appear again on the agenda for the new discussions between senior civil servants, which will take place alternately in Belfast and Dublin.

One of the most pressing topics will be communications, and another drainage. Lack of co-operation in the past has left large areas of farmland along the 300-mile border undrained because of the failure of those on either side to agree on the method.

One other subject that will be discussed is the possibility of reopening the Ballinacorney-Ballyconnell canal, a little known stretch of 33 miles of waterway, built in the nineteenth century to link the river Shannon in the south and the River Eire in the north.

For obvious reasons no attention has been paid to the canal for many years. But officials believe that co-operation and joint funding between the Department of the Environment at Stormont and the Office of Public Works in Dublin could see it reopened. If so, using sets of waterways in both countries, it would again become feasible to travel by boat directly from Limerick to Belfast.

The main reason for the renewed co-operation has been the change of government in Dublin. While the previous national coalition was reluctant to reopen consultative channels, until direct rule had given way to a new devolved administration, it appears that PIRA has been waiting for a solution to Ulster's political deadlock.

## Vanguard party of Mr Craig to be disbanded

From Our Own Correspondent, Belfast

The Vanguard Unionist Party, set up in 1973 but now little more than a splinter group, is to be disbanded. Most of its members, including its leader, Mr William Craig, MP, are expected to rejoin the Official Unionists, the largest political party in Ulster.

Yesterday Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionists, made it clear that Mr Craig would be welcome back in the fold. It is likely that he will be given the Official Unionist nomination if he stands again for his present Westminster constituency of East Belfast.

Although initially one of the most extreme Unionist groupings, in more recent years Vanguard has become increasingly moderate. During the 1974 election, it was expelled from the "loyalist" coalition after backing the notion of a voluntary coalition with Roman Catholic politicians.

## Four paintings given to help Stubbs appeal

Mr Paul Mellon, the American millionaire, and his wife, Mrs Mellon, have given four paintings valued at £40,000 and £50,000 to the Tate Gallery's Save the Stubs Appeal.

The pictures are two by Edward Vuillard, one by Pierre Bonnard and one by Alberto Giacometti.

They will go on show at the Burlington Fine Arts Club from December 1 to 6 and will then be sold at a Bonhams' charity auction at the Tate on December 8.

## Tories are warned not to write off Mr Benn's leadership potential

By David Wood

The Conservative Party is warned in a booklet, *Mr Benn's Challenge*, that Mr Benn, who is leader of the Labour Party, would offer a much stronger challenge than Conservative leaders and rank-and-file assume when they dismiss him as an emotional bore figure in politics and business.

Mr John Biffen, MP for Oswestry, the author, whose party stature has risen since he detached himself from Mr Enoch Powell, urges the Conservative Party not to underestimate the danger presented by Mr Benn, or even Mr Peter Shore, if either succeeded to the Labour leadership. He sees them developing a new and important brand of populist nationalism.

"Tony Benn" he writes in a characteristically independent forward to a collection of recent speeches, "has now emerged as a major political figure in the Labour Party... a Labour Party led by Tony Benn or Peter Shore could move towards the position of becoming the party of national planning allied to nationalism."

"This need not involve any substantial further nationalisation. It would involve the use of national government planning agreements with multi-national businesses, and the use of national import quotas and tariffs."

Mr Benn could be described as a Tory nationalist, a former opponent of United Kingdom entry into the EEC and still a politician anxious to curb any development of the Community towards supranationalism or federalism. He sees Mr Benn's sustained arguments inside the Labour Party as to some extent undercutting an historic Conservative appeal to the electorate.

He notes that the mood for national protectionism is already evident and could get stronger, and that there is no reason to suppose that economic and social difficulties are any easier to resolve by supranationalism rather than national government. He then adds:

"It is not of itself an extremist political remedy. It need involve no expropriation of assets; it builds upon the present close relationship between government and large-scale industry, and it will capitalise on the present disillusionment with the Common Market."

Those who take refuge in mere denunciations of these policies as some wild Marxist "red-pole" are reacting in a superficial and shortsighted way. "Bennite" socialism could become electorally popular and so requires a rather more measured and thoughtful response from the Tory Party.

Mr Biffen then asks how Conservatives should meet the Bennite challenge. He answers that pre-emptive in the Tory Message must be a commitment to alter the balance of the mixed economy. There is no merit in a mindless Conservative bashing of public enterprises.

However, there was now a close identity between large-scale private enterprise and government, and also a public sector whose pricing, incomes and investment policies had been under close, if not oppressive, political control.

The balance of the economy could be altered, and even Labour had admitted that for industrial aid the rest for government support was vital. Bennite socialism was a new economic and social fact.

Mr Biffen, who has had a frontbench spell as Mrs Thatcher's spokesman on energy, sees scope for private finance to operate increasingly alongside government finance; for government finance to be withdrawn from private industrial and commercial failure; and for the expansion of the private sector itself, subject to a conservative switch from direct to indirect taxation.

In the updated version of his scepticism about the EEC, Mr Biffen argues that there is a need for the Conservative Party to establish a European policy that takes account of our national needs and the maritime character of our trade and history.

For that reason when he comments on his booklet, Mr Biffen said that he welcomed the proposed enlargement of the EEC by admitting Portugal, Spain and Greece, because it would make the Community more federalist, and above all because it would mean rewriting the basic treaty, to which those who held his view could make their voices and influence felt.

Enlargement meant a transformed European community and raised the question whether the United Kingdom's vital national interests lay in a policy of EEC protection or EEC free trade.

The Conservative Party, Mr Biffen declares, has an overriding need to produce what the EEC and by what institutions it intends to secure them. The first danger, to avoid the possible emergence of inconsistent economic policies as applied on the national and European stage, because a domestic policy of setting the people free could not truly exist within a narrowly protectionist continental system.

Secondly, the Conservative Party must not become identified in the public mind with foreign financial rule "out of the British fear of appearing insufficiently 'European'". Failure to look critically at Community policies and institutions would play into the hands of the populist Labour Party, "looking for any and every opportunity of wrapping its programme and its egalitarian rhetoric, in the Union Jack".

A vigorous and successful Toryism could be built only out of a fruitful intermarriage of liberal economics with an outward-looking patriotism.

Mr Biffen sees an insidious danger that the Conservatives could become the party of Brussels, "while Labour becomes the party of Berlin". It would be a mistake to read too much into the fact that Mrs Thatcher, as Leader of the Opposition, has written a warm foreword to the booklet. It is published by the Centre for Policy Studies, founded by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph, with the customary explanation that Mr Biffen's opinions are his own.

But Mrs Thatcher goes out of her way to applaud "bold re-examination of our ideas and practices in the perspective which experience alone gives" to arm the Conservative Party for battles ahead. She comments that Mr Biffen, as a former anti-Market politician, "offers constructive criticism which the Community's most impassioned supporters will be unable to ignore."

She also describes as a valuable exercise in political logic the author's chapter on Scottish and Welsh devolution, an issue which he says is "not about separation and disunion of the United Kingdom. He sees the choice lying between a unitary state or separation."

Mr Biffen's foreword by Margaret Thatcher (Centre for Policy Studies, £1.85).

## Propaganda radio denies credit to the Dambusters

The Second World War "Dambusters" were denied credit for their raid in British propaganda broadcasts in Germany in 1943, according to Dr Charles Cruickshank, the historian, who tells the story in his book, *The Fourth Man*, published today.

"They denied the Dambusters credit for their brilliant achievements in 1943," he said, "and attributed the destruction of the dams to an international organization of foreign workers in Germany who had carried out their first major sabotage operations". Dr Cruickshank writes.

The broadcasts claimed that the RAF bombing raids were a camouflage to enable the saboteurs to do their job, and told listeners that the resultant floods were likely to infect all vegetable crops and grain. Dysentery would strike very quickly to be followed by typhoid.

The author says any doubts about the energy, ingenuity and macabre sense of humour of the propagandists are dispelled by an examination of a volume of creative work they left behind. About 10,000 rumours were broadcast in Germany by one secret radio station alone. They were aimed at first at the general public, but more and more at the Armed Forces.

"The whispers poured out by this station were cunningly blended with items of hard news," he said, "and the listener could verify for himself, and he would find it almost impossible to sort that wheat from the chaff."

The secret radio captured thousands of German listeners with the aid of propaganda. The black propagandists broadcast programmes describing the eccentricities of a Hitler youth leader or a depraved German admiral.

The broadcaster was Sefron Delmer, who purported to be a tough, patriotic Prussian disgusted by the corruption and depravity flourishing under the Nazi regime. The intention was to stimulate distrust by rumour and innuendo.

One of his more lurid performances was drawn to the attention of Sir Stafford Cripps, then British Ambassador in Moscow, who was shocked and complained to the Foreign Office.

Sir Rex Leeper, who was in charge of black propaganda, defended Delmer. He wrote: "I dislike the baser sides of human life as much as Sir Stafford Cripps does, but in this case moral indignation does not seem to be called for."

The Fourth Arm, Psychological Warfare, 1938-45 (Davis-Poyser Ltd, 55.50).

Back on the rails: A 76-ton diesel locomotive on the rails on Saturday after being lifted from gardens at Mottingham, south London, into which it plunged after a collision on October 11. The cost of lifting the locomotive and 13 cement trucks, with repairs and compensation for demolished greenhouses, garden sheds and an aviary from which many birds escaped, may reach £500,000.

## Fewer offenders should be jailed, MPs are told

By a Staff Reporter

More manpower resources in the prison system should be switched substantially from custody to the non-custodial sector, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says in a memorandum to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee.

The committee is inquiring into the administration of the prison services. The memorandum, published today, suggests that rapid development of community-based facilities for offenders should be combined with restrictions on the powers of courts. Imprisonment should be confined to those offenders who must be sent to prison for the protection of the public.

It says there is no justification for continuing to imprison a greater proportion of the population than in any other country in the EEC except West Germany. The prison population could be drastically reduced, making possible a thorough review of prisoners' conditions and rights.

The small number of offenders from whom society must be protected should have adequate facilities for training, employment and education, and their civil rights should be preserved as far as possible.

The association says Government projections of a rise in the average daily number of prisoners from 41,443 last year to 48,100 by 1980-81, with worsening prison conditions, combine the worst of all possible worlds.

It is important that joint work between the probation and prison services should extend into community-based activities. As a first step opportunities should be given for probation officers to be seconded to parts of the probation service in the community and at day-training centres.

Forms of intensive probation, which could give courts the confidence to place some prisoners under supervision in the community, were frequently used once every 28 days. There should be more help with employment prospects for prisoners and a resettlement grant. The association also calls for a new independent disciplinary tribunal in prisons.

Consideration should be given to a new parole system in which most prisoners would be eligible at a fixed point in their sentence. An early-release scheme for prisoners serving sentences of 18 months or less is suggested.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority said the hoax transmission was the first of its kind in Britain. The voice, which said it came from the "International Association", spoke for more than six minutes and was heard by viewers in Hampshire and as far north as Reading who receive sound from a transmitter at Hannington, Hampshire.

The IBA said: "We do not know what the source of it was or how it got on the air." Viewers, many of whom later made anxious telephone calls to Southern Television, heard a slow, deep voice proclaim: "All your weapons of war must be destroyed. You have a short time to learn to live together in peace."

## Scandinavia protest over sulphur rain

One of Britain's least welcome invisible exports, sulphur rain which is said to kill fish and destroy vegetation in Sweden and Norway, has led to a protest by Scandinavian youth organizations.

Representatives of 20,000 young people concerned with the environment in the two countries visited the Department of the Environment and the Central Electricity Generating Board last week to ask them to reduce sulphur emissions from British power stations and industry.

The result of the meetings will be reported to the Governments of Norway and Sweden. British youth organizations are planning discussions with government departments and a campaign to alert MPs to the danger.

Britain is said to be producing about 2,800,000 tons of sulphur pollutants every year from its tall chimney-stacks, of which 60,000 tons are exported to Norway. That is a quarter of Norway's total acid "imports".

Since the soil in Scandinavia, unlike much of the rest of Europe, is already slightly acidic, the environmental damage is correspondingly greater. Mr Sven Larsson, a representative of the Swedish youth environmental group, Falstidsgården, says that 10 per cent of Sweden's 100,000 lakes are already damaged by acidification. Fish can no longer survive in 2,300 lakes in the two countries.

Mr Larsson says Sweden has lost about £5m a year in forestry production, and that could rise to £40m by the year 2000. The cost of corrosion could reach £250m in four years' time.

Representatives of British youth groups, who are co-operating with the Scandinavians, complain that the Department of the Environment and the CEGB are not planning any research into the environmental damage. Nor do they intend to change production methods to eliminate sulphur emissions.

A possible increase by the Greater London Council of more than 400 per cent in the rent charged to the Young Vic Theatre might force a cut in the number of performances, Mr Donald Searns, the general manager, said last week.

The rent for the site has been £500 a year, set below market value to help the theatre. Now the Conservative-controlled GLC is asking for £2,750 a year, having decided to charge the market value.

Mr Searns said that the theatre was already run on a tight budget; prices were very low to attract young people and staff were paid as little as £30 a week. The budget could not be further reduced without endangering artistic standards.

It seems to him that the only way out is to reduce the number of performances "we give", he said.

The higher rent was still being disputed with the GLC. It had been suggested that the increase might be back-loaded. Mr Geoffrey Apin, chairman of the GLC's housing development committee, said that when the lease was originally granted to the theatre some years ago, a concessionary rent had been charged, partly because the GLC had no immediate use for the site and partly to help the Young Vic to get going.

Now the lease had run out and the council was asking the theatre to pay the market rent. "The change in policy was not decided by the full council," Mr Apin took the decision as committee chairman. That has angered Mr Kenneth Livingstone, a Labour councillor, who feels the matter should have been discussed.

## Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbolic area on accompanying map)

Today Sun rises: 7.39 am. Moon sets: 3.57 pm. High water: 9.31 am. Low water: 6.34 pm.

Next quarter: December 3. Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.11 am. High water: London Bridge, 3.2 am, 7.1m (23.3ft); 2.22 pm, 7.5m (23.1ft). Avonmouth, 8.24 am (21.7ft), 7.22 pm (23.2ft). Liverpool, 12.1 am, 8.8m (28.8ft); 12.31 pm, 8.9m (29.3ft).

An anticyclone centred over N Britain will drive S. dominating the weather in many districts, but a weak trough will reach NW Scotland later.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE England, East Anglia: Cloudy at times, scattered rain or showers; wind light to mainly N, light; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Central S. SW England: Mostly dry, bright or sunny intervals after fog patches; wind E, light or moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Channel Islands: Dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind E, moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Wales, NW, some spots of rain; wind variable, light; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals after early mist; wind variable, light; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Dr Cavanagh: Held talks for release of hostages.

## Nine men held after siege in Dublin store

Nine men held yesterday after a 12-hour siege in Dublin are expected to appear in court today. Eight armed men surrendered after holding hostages in a cash-and-carry store.

Another man was arrested before the siege, by troops and police, began. The gunmen, who had freed three of their original nine hostages, gave in after talking through a window to Dr James Cavanagh, Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin.

The bishop spoke to the men after an earlier mediation attempt by a solicitor who frequently acts in court cases involving members of the Provisional IRA.

The siege began after raiders burst into the store on Saturday morning and ordered staff and customers to hand over money. A woman on the staff managed to telephone the police.

# IF YOU SMELL GAS-RING US

If you smell gas, remember the simple safety rules:-

- \* Don't smoke or use naked flames.
- \* Don't operate electrical switches - on or off.
- \* Do open doors and windows.
- \* Then check that you haven't left the gas on and unlit - or that a pilot light has not gone out.

If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the supply at the meter - and report the leak. Do this at once. The numbers in the telephone directory under Gas - and we're on call 24 hours a day.

We'll come quickly and deal with the problem. And if you smell gas at work or in the street, please report it at once. Don't leave it to someone else.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU - 24 HOURS A DAY

Ask at your local gas showroom for our free booklet *'Help Yourself To Gas Safety'*, which describes the full range of services we provide.

BRITISH GAS

55.50



## HOME NEWS

# Union asking teachers and chief education officers not to answer questions on curriculum

By Diana Geddes,  
Education Correspondent

The National Union of Teachers has decided to ask its members not to cooperate with the Government's questionnaire on the curriculum, which is being sent to local authorities today. It fears that it could be the beginning of government interference in the curriculum.

The executive committee of the union, which represents more than half of all teachers in England and Wales, agreed on Saturday that it should ask teachers who are members of local authorities and all chief education officers not to fill in the questionnaire, which contains more than 50 detailed questions on curriculum content, policy and control.

It feels that government pressure is being put on local authorities to answer the questionnaire. "What is the authority's policy for the provision of science courses for pupils up to the age of 16?" It suggests that the authorities should instead submit general memoranda on curriculum provisions in their areas to the Government.

The Government circular on the curriculum, which has been drawn up only after prolonged consultation with the teachers' organizations and local authorities, is the first concrete product of the Green Paper on education published last July. Replies are wanted by June 30 next. The Government will then decide what kind of curriculum will give to authorities. Mrs

Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has insisted that there is no question of central government seeking control of the curriculum.

The circular emphasizes that the proper function of the education system in England and Wales depends on the effective cooperation of the schools, their teachers and their governors and managers; the local education authorities; and the Secretary of State (for Education and Science) and for Wales with their departments and HM Inspectors.

The secretaries of state have no intention of changing that position which reflects the position of the education Act. The circular says: "At the same time they recognize the legitimate interest of others, for example, parents, industry and commerce, in the work of the schools."

The circular, however, states that the time was right to secure systematic information about curriculum arrangements so that they could assess "how far the practice of local authorities meets national requirements."

They want to be able to identify "examples of good practice" that could be commended for wider adoption. They ask that local authority reports should include: information about plan development as well as the present provision.

The questionnaire is divided into seven main sections:

1. The authority's general policy on the curriculum and the degree of its control in setting that

policy is implemented in the schools. Questions are included on the effects of the Sex Discrimination Act on the curriculum, the role of the school's governing body, and what financial assistance is given to new curriculum development.

2. Curriculum balance and breadth. What do authorities consider to be the best or progressive part of the curriculum? What provision is made for: moral, health, careers and social education, and what is done to help schools to promote racial understanding?

3. Particular subject areas. Authorities are asked to report specifically on their policies for English, mathematics, modern languages and religious education, those being the subject areas that have given rise most to recent concern. But, it is emphasized that does not mean that other subjects are considered less important.

4. What arrangements are made to make the transition between schools as children grow older as smooth as possible, including cooperation between teachers and any written curriculum continuity in the curriculum?

5. What records are kept of pupils' progress and to what extent is the information recorded made available outside the school?

6. Preparation for working life. The section includes questions on the newly topical issue of what is done to encourage political, economic and social education.

7. The circular on the Welsh language, is to be answered only by Welsh authorities.

Questions are included in several sections on what the authority does to encourage cooperation between schools and further education colleges in making provision for the 16 to 19 age group.

## Pleasures of the pipe remain an enigma

By John Roper

Why smokers of pipes and cigars bother to smoke at all is an enigma, according to a report in the *British Medical Journal*. It points out that, except for those who previously smoked cigarettes, they do not inhale and absorption of nicotine appears to be insignificant.

The article, reporting on a study conducted by Dr J. A. McMichael of the Middlesbrough Hospital, describes how nine doctors and a cardiologist, half of them former cigarette smokers and half pipe and cigar smokers, each smoked a large cigar. The former cigarette smokers inhaled and absorbed significant amounts of nicotine.

Dr Turner, a research fellow in the department of medicine, concludes that measures aimed at persuading cigarette smokers to switch to cigars will have little effect on their health.

He says that although it was known that cigarette smokers continued to inhale when smoking small cigars, it was surprising to find that they did so with large cigars. It had been thought that the smoke would be too irritating.

An unexpected finding was the insignificant amount of nicotine absorbed through the mouth by smokers of pipes and cigars. They were as addicted to their pipes and cigars as the former cigarette smokers had been to the smoking habit.

Asked yesterday why they smoked when the stimulation of inhaling nicotine appeared to be largely absent, pipe-smokers said: "I reach for my pipe, and I fill up slowly. After the first few puffs, they suggested it had something to do with the smell, the taste and the comfort of a well-filled pipe."



Children from Redcliffe primary school, Rotherhithe, feeding animals at the docks farm. It gives the children their first taste of country life.

## Lack of cash may close docks farm

By John Young,  
Planning Reporter

A small farm nestled amid the eerie desolation of the disused Surrey docks, which has given hundreds of London schoolchildren their first and only taste of country life, may soon have to close through lack of funds.

The farm was started two years ago by Miss Hilary Peters, and Mr Kenneth Bushell, two professional landscape gardeners, who decided the "deserted" scrubland would be ideal for grazing geese. A pair of donkeys and several geese,

ducks and hens were added to the menagerie and, Miss Peters says, in no time at all they were swamped by requests from schools for visits.

Miss Jennifer Gallagher, a teacher at the local primary school, said: "Most of the children around here live on estates where they are not allowed to keep cats or dogs or other pets. Zoos are not the same, because the animals are behind bars."

"When they first come here they have never had any contact with animals, and they are frightened. But they gradually overcome their fear, and a whole new world opens up for them."

Until now the farm has been run by five nominally part-time volunteers, although some of them work virtually full time. They charge no admission fees, and their most substantial

assistance to date has been a small grant from the Docklands Joint Committee for landscaping work and the purchase of a pony cart.

They have been given free use of the land by Southwark Council and a tacit promise that if the docks are redeveloped, provision will be made for the farm to continue.

But Miss Peters and Mr Bushell have run out of money. They and their colleagues will soon have to start working again, and they estimate that they need at least £10,000 to pay the salaries of two full-time and two part-time staff for the next year.

That, they say, will give them a breathing space in which to consider charging admission fees and applying for grants. Failing that, the geese and the ducks will be no more than a short-lived memory.

## Civil Service cyclists steer within guidelines

By a Staff Reporter

Civil servants have been given fresh inducement to escape the corridors of power and to get out and meet people by an increase in their bicycle allowance.

In future they will be able to claim anything from 2.1p a mile for less than 100 miles a month to a maximum of 23.42p for more than 300 miles a month. The overall increase is calculated to be about a tenth and thus to conform with the Government's pay guidelines.

The Civil Service Department pointed out yesterday that the allowance was payable only to those who bicycled on government business and not to those who used their machines merely for commuting. Examples might be co-ordinators and health and social security visitors.

Entitlement to such an allowance is thought to date from before the use of the car, when the bicycle was regarded as an effective alternative to the hansom cab. It has been revised at irregular intervals ever since.

An official said he thought the allowance would be payable only to those who used their own machines and not to those who risked life and limb on government contraptions. Cyclists were subject to the increased costs of wear and tear just as much as those who drove the new-fangled automobiles.

**Extra canal money**  
The Manpower Services Commission is to make available an extra £125,000 for restoration work on the Kennet and Avon Canal near Bath. The money will provide 43 unemployed people with a year's work. The commission has already allocated more than £200,000 for the project.

## Poor 'forced to choose between food and fuel'

By Robin Young,  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Government has done too little to counteract the effect of sharply increased fuel bills on the budgets of poor people, a report published today by the National Consumer Council states. It says the Department of Energy's "Save It" campaign has had minimal effect on low-income groups and there has been no effective output from the junior ministers' energy conservation committee.

The report's author, Mr David Green, of Friends of the Earth, says many low-income families have to choose between fuel or food. He quotes a survey showing that 3.6 per cent of pensioners admitted to hospital were suffering from hypothermia.

The Government's electricity discount scheme to help the poorest families to meet winter fuel bills had a take-up rate of only 57 per cent last year, Mr Green says. That was because of the complexity of the scheme, the "unreasonably high reading level required by the publicity leaflet" and difficulties in its distribution.

Many poor consumers cannot pay their fuel bills, let alone find an additional lump sum for insulation, the report says, and in the poorest homes heating standards are already so low that insulation would not reduce fuel bills.

The report's recommendations, which are supported by the National Consumer Council, include a considerable insulation programme by the Government, with cash grants available to householders through the home improvement grant system. It says there should be home insulation schemes for elderly and disabled people under the Government's job creation programme.

It suggests that the Government should pay the total cost of loft insulation, draught-proofing and hot water tank lagging in the homes of those covered by the fuel industries code of practice on the payment of gas and electricity bills.

**Insulation and Energy Advice: Some Future Possibilities** (National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1 4QP).

## Labour picks lecturer for Irvine seat

Mr Robert Wareing, aged 47, principal lecturer at the Central Liverpool College of Further Education, was adopted yesterday as prospective Labour candidate for Epsom, Essex, the seat held for Labour by Sir Arthur Irvine for 30 years. Mr Wareing is president of Liverpool Labour Party.

The constituency party called for the election of Sir Arthur, aged 67, some months ago, saying he did not adequately represent his constituents.

Sir Arthur said he would resign if the decision was voted against him. It did but he stayed on to save the Government embarrassment in case the seat, with a 6,171 majority, was lost to Labour.

General election: Sir Arthur (Lab), 13,023; D. Alton (L), 6,852; S. N. Perry (C), 5,208.

## Lorry ban sought for Tower Bridge

Some 4,000 lorries may be banned from using Tower Bridge, London. The City Corporation says the bridge, built in the nineteenth century, is taking too much of a battering from juggernauts.

So the corporation is applying to the Greater London Council for an order restricting vehicles using the bridge to five tons laden weight.

## Headless men named

Two men whose decapitated bodies were found beside the main Glasgow to Euston railway line at Whilston, Northamptonshire, were named yesterday as Mr Brian Hakes, aged 45, and Mr William Poyton, aged 23, both of Northampton.

## Attacked by fox

A fox which attacked two people near Bloxham, north Oxfordshire, was being hunted yesterday by police and RSPCA officials.

## Big pay rises may affect pensions, unions are told

Trade unionists expecting a prosperous retirement on company pension schemes should moderate their pay claims, a senior union official says. Pay awards that fuel inflation could destroy years of effort put into company pension schemes, according to Mr Harry Lucas, pension adviser to the General and Municipal Workers' union.

"Even trade union members can be affected by investment yields", Mr Lucas says in an article in *Choice*, a magazine for retirement planning. And with inflation running at 14 to 15 per cent, the return on invested pension funds cannot keep pace."

Mr Lucas points out that if

wage inflation overtook those pensions or interest rates there might not be enough money to pay the promised pension.

"Trade unionists involved in wage bargaining should consider a complete package which includes a pension scheme, not just money now", he writes. Employers faced with substantial wage demands might not be able to afford to maintain their contributions to pension schemes.

When a good occupational pension scheme existed, "the wage claim must take into account the additional cost of keeping the pension scheme benefits in line with the wage award."

## New Zealand fears curb on lamb exports

Mr Duncan MacIntyre, New Zealand Minister of Agriculture, is visiting some of his European counterparts, the post-arrivals in London during his tour and said: "Some ministers of agriculture would leave a sign of relief if they read in *The Times* tomorrow that New Zealand had sunk beneath the Pacific."

He felt confident about that even though some had been most determined opponents of New Zealand's presence in EEC meat markets. "Please do not let the impression that I am complaining," Mr MacIntyre added after a long exposition of the faults and inconsistencies of the common agricultural policy.

Mr MacIntyre said that the EEC that treated suppliers of food would face changes in their trade. "New Zealand governments have attempted to influence unfairly the argument and drive in that way you have given us a moral responsibility to defend and support you." The two ministers were speaking at a dinner organised by Jones & Co., the British subsidiary of a New Zealand meat company.

Mr MacIntyre made it clear on his visit that his country wanted permanent access for its food to the Community, perhaps on the same firm basis as the French access to its wine. It was proposed to appeal to every available international forum or convention to keep its access to Europe.

New Zealand faces three main threats to its food trade in the EEC, almost all of which are due to the fact that its cheese is not underwritten only until 1990 and lamb is due for incorporation into the common agricultural policy.

The lamb issue has long been overshadowed by the fate of butter and cheese, but Mr MacIntyre indicated that New Zealand farmers are now equally worried about all three.

## Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

## Hugh Clayton

functioning and development of the Common Market in respect of agricultural products shall be accompanied by the establishment of a common agricultural policy". Brussels wants to bring in lamb.

That frightens New Zealand, since it believes the main effect of any EEC sheep plan would be to raise the price of lamb drastically in Britain, which is the main market. The United Kingdom consumes more sheep than the rest of the EEC put together.

Yet although consumption of lamb has been falling in recent years British farmers can still not supply much more than half of national requirements. The rest comes from New Zealand and much less than lamb produced in any other Community country, except the Irish Republic.

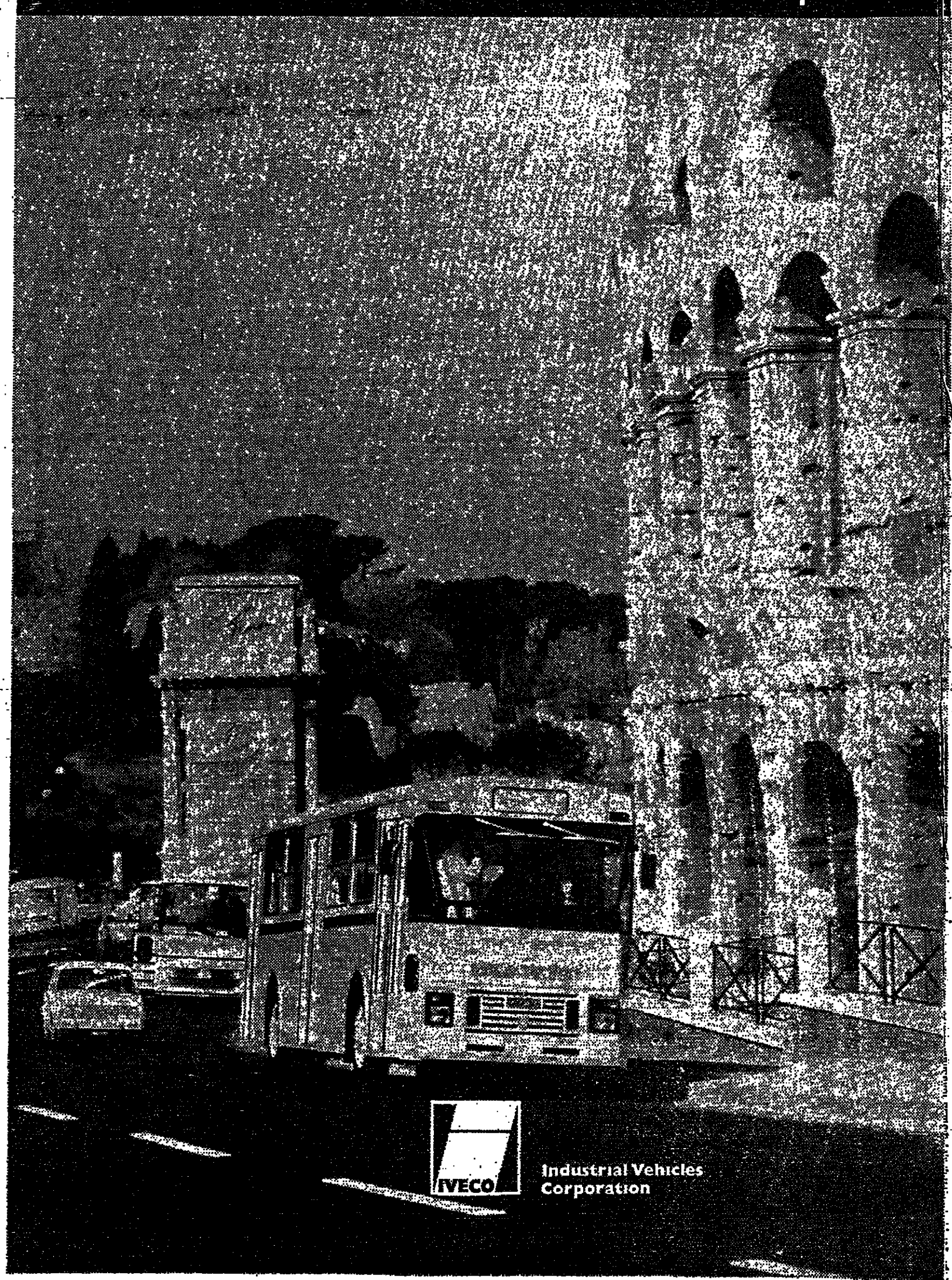
There are almost as many sheep in New Zealand as in the whole of the EEC. Last year the Community imported 270,000 tonnes of lamb, of which 200,000 tonnes were from New Zealand. That last figure represented almost two-thirds of all New Zealand sheep meat exports.

Sales of lamb in Britain are at the mercy of the beef market. New Zealand lamb, in particular, sells mainly because it is cheaper than beef. If lamb was pulled into the EEC and the price went up sharply, New Zealanders fear, shoppers would simply turn to beef or pork or broiler chicken, and the Community lamb market would be lost to internal and external markets alike.

French farmers receive more than 17 francs a kilogram for their lamb in France, while British farmers receive less than 60p a pound for theirs here. If those prices are converted to the same unit they show a very wide gap at more than 22 a kilogram in France and less than £1.30 a kilogram in Britain. British prices of New Zealand lamb are even lower.

A bus in an historic city. A coach on a modern highway. A truck crossing a continent, or working on a construction site, or putting out a fire. Vehicles named Fiat, OM, Lancia, Unic, Magirus-Deutz. This is the world of Iveco.

Iveco: a world of experience.



Industrial Vehicles Corporation



## HOME NEWS

## Labour executive and Cabinet meet today for EEC policy talks

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

An agreed Labour policy on the European Community is the declared object of the long-awaited meeting today between the full Cabinet and the party's national executive committee.

While withdrawal has at least been laid as a bogey, divisions still run deep as evidenced in last Thursday's Commons vote on the European Assembly elections.

Of course, the Government is committed and will carry the day. But with less than half the Labour MPs voting for the simple principle of direct elections, never mind the haggling to come over the method, it is small wonder that Labour's brave international socialists have still not formally decided, as a party, whether to put up candidates in the elections.

SEN has been there been consideration of the policies on which its candidates might stand. Labour MPs who are interested have not yet been told whether the cabinet statement of the Confederation of Socialist Parties in the present assembly.

Much of that ought to change today.

As things stand, the Govern-

ment has not moved much to placate the objections of Labour and EEC campaigners.

The Government seems to hold that it is implicit in so far as the Bill is concerned. Mr Callaghan said in a letter to the national executive committee in October: "The United Kingdom should make it clear that in our case any change on the powers of the assembly would require an Act of Parliament and not simply be introduced by an Affirmative Order under the European Communities Act."

But the Bill is silent. The private member's motion is being debated in the Commons today on a closely related issue. Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham, South, and a hard-line anti-EEC campaigner, is moving a further strengthening of EEC legislation of commission proposals.

Where the Select Committee on European Legislation has recommended further Commons consideration for such EEC proposals, he is moving that a British minister shall agree to them within the Council of Ministers "until such time as this House has debated the topic".

The Government is waiting on today's debate before deciding how its MPs should vote.

## Move by journalists to end Darlington strike

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Journalists and printing workers will jointly approach the Westminster Press Management this week with proposals to end a 22-week strike by 190 members of the National Union of Journalists, centred on Darlington.

The strike, in support of a closed shop, appears to be edging towards a solution, although nobody is prepared to discuss details. After a weekend meeting of the NUJ executive, a spokesman said: "We hope to see the employers this week, and we are confident of reaching an agreement to meet us. We cannot force them to do so."

Left-wingers on the NUJ executive see the outcome of the strike as a test case for the future of closed shops in journalism, which are strongly opposed by the Newspaper Society, representing provincial newspaper publishers.

The dispute involving 450 non-based journalists employed by Mirror Group Newspapers was also discussed by NUJ executive. It declared support for the newspaper industry, but said it should not be paid less than those who processed their work.

A motion called on all NUJ members and members of printing unions to do everything in their power to maintain the solidarity and determination of Mirror group

## Baronet sued by his mother for return of jewels

Sir Rupert Mackeson, of Orchard Court, Portman Square, London, is to be sued by his mother in the High Court for return of jewels valued at £10,000.

Alicia Lady Mackeson, of Coldstream, Borders, has issued a writ against her son, aged 36, the second baronet, claiming that the jewels, which she lent him to wear at the wedding of her daughter to Lord de la Warr, were to be returned to her with a bank security for loans. She says it was agreed they would be returned on reasonable demand.

Lady Mackeson is also seeking return of loans of £3,100, said 22 have been made between January, 1974, and November last year. The writ has yet to be served.

## Britain's top tax rate lower than Sweden and Portugal

Top marginal tax rates on earned income higher than the 83 per cent in the United Kingdom apply in the following countries: Algeria, 100 per cent; Egypt, 96.6 per cent; Japan, 83.7 per cent; Portugal, 84.4 per cent; Sweden, 84.8 per cent; Tanzania, 95 per cent.

\* Includes local income taxes.

Treasury, Nov 16

## Answers in Parliament

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies with the sources and dates on which they appeared in Hansard.

**Tax rate:** The standard or basic rate of tax since 1945 has been as follows:

Standard rate: 1945-46, 50 per cent; 1946-47 to 1950-51, 45 per cent; 1951-52 and 1952-53, 47.5 per cent; 1953-54 and 1954-55, 42.5 per cent; 1955-56 to 1958-59, 42.5 per cent; 1959-60 to 1964-65, 33.5 per cent; 1965-66 to 1970-71, 33.5 per cent; 1971-72 and 1972-73, 38.75 per cent.
Basic rate: 1973-74, 30 per cent; 1974-75, 33 per cent; 1975-76 and 1976-77, 35 per cent; 1977-78, 34 per cent.

Basic rate from 1973 to 1974 is not comparable with standard rate owing to the operation of earned income relief for earlier years, and investment income surcharge from 1973 to 1974.

Treasury, Nov 18

**Grants:** dispute: Since June 13, 24 police officers have been injured in incidents arising from the picketing of the Grunick factory.

Home Office, Nov 17

**Health service costs:** The capital and revenue costs, in pounds a head of population, of the health services, including family practitioner services, in regional health authority areas in England in 1976-77 were respectively as follows:

North-east, 8.02; 91.39; Yorkshire, 6.36; 51.78; Trent, 10.00; 83.44; East Anglia, 7.12; 87.35;
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## WEST EUROPE

## Christian Democrat and Liberal leaders in Holland agree to form a right-wing coalition

From Robert Schull  
Amsterdam, Nov 27

There is now every indication that the Netherlands will soon have a right-of-centre government. Parliamentary leaders of the Christian Democrats and the right-wing Liberals have successfully renegotiated an earlier coalition agreement, parts of which were unacceptable to left-wing members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group.

The new agreement, reached after differences over some 150 points, mostly raised by the Christian Democrats, had been turned out, will be submitted to the parliamentary groups of the two parties on Monday.

Both Mr Hans Wiegel, the Liberal leader and Mr Christian De Boer, the Christian Democratic opposite number, Mr Andries van Agt, have stated that they are confident that the agreement will be acceptable to their parliamentary groups. Details will not be made public before the parliamentary groups of the two parties concerned start examining them tomorrow.

It is not clear whether Mr Wiegel and Mr van Agt will be submitting the compromise agreement on a vote or

leave it basic or whether there is room for further adjustment.

Left-wing Christian Democrats were upset about the lack of definition of the economic policies set forth in the original Liberal-Christian Democratic pact, in particular as regards income policy, reduction of government spending and on controversial new scheme on profit sharing.

Acceptance of the proposed programme for a Christian Democratic-Liberal Government by all members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group is vital as such a coalition would have to survive on a majority of 77 out of the 155-seat parliament. Even a few defections would be sufficient to bring down the new Government.

In the present economic state of the country ill-defined economic policies or weak Government actions are judged as potentially disastrous amid the growing awareness that the revenues from Holland's only natural resource, gas, have masked the real state of the country's economic health.

Recent trade figures indicate that over the first nine months of this year Holland had a trade deficit of some 4,300m guilders (nearly £1,000m) while it had a surplus of some 2,500m guilders over the same period last year.

## Concorde flights not affected by pilots' strike

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris Nov 27

Concorde flights were not affected by the 48-hour strike at the weekend by Air France pilots and mechanics. They decided to make an exception for the super-sonic airliner in order not to disrupt the Paris-New York service just a few days before it had gone into operation. All other flights were seriously disrupted.

The stoppage was in protest at the Government's decision to cut salaries of 30,000 francs (£3,400) a month next year (as well as this year) and to limit the increase in monthly salaries of between 18,000 francs and 30,000 francs to the rise in the cost of living.

They also complain of excessive flying time as a substitute for recruiting more pilots. "Shortage of staff involves weekly and monthly flying times which borders on infringement of international regulations", the air line pilots' union said.

Air France pilots earn between 9,000 francs and 25,000 francs (£1,000 to £2,900) a month, depending on qualifications and seniority. They fly between 40 and 67 hours a month. They say that the flying time must be multiplied by three to obtain their real working time, apparently intended to sabotage a breakthrough in negotiations between

## 'Defferre's folly' gives Marseilles its metro

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov 27

The metro of Marseilles, the first outside Paris, was inaugurated yesterday with Mediterranean exuberance, folk and pop music, dancing and theatricals, by Mr Gaston Defferre, the Socialist leader and mayor for a quarter of a century.

Tens of thousands of Marseillais took the opportunity of admiring this new wonder of the world as it rode on its free for two days.

They commented approvingly on the comfortable white coaches, air sprung and rubber-tyred, on the gaily decorated stations and on the efficiency of the fully automatic system, even if the bill for what has been described as "Defferre's folly" is much steeper than anticipated 15 years ago.

Sundering regional personalities and Defferre cut the symbolic ribbon at the entrance of the Station de la Rose, which now links the north-eastern district of the city with the Gare St Charles at the top of the Canebière, a

## Lawyer attacks extradition of Herr Croissant

Rennes, Nov 27.—The president of France's largest lawyers' union has accused the Government of lacking respect for the law in handling the recent extradition of Herr Klaus Croissant, the Bader-Meinhold defence lawyer.

Herr Croissant was swiftly handed over to West Germany 11 days ago after a French court ruled in favour of his extradition.

M André Braunschweig, the president of the Magistrates' Union, said he deplored the speed with which the Government had acted.—Reuter.

## Eternal flame used to fry an egg

Paris, Nov 27.—A young woman caught trying to fry an egg over the eternal flame at France's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris, told police she did it for a bet. She was arrested and faces charges of desecration.—Reuter.

## European Law Report: Week ended Nov 25

## Court of Justice of the European Communities

## Lawyer's right to practise in EEC state

Jean Razanatsimba, Lillo, France (Referral for preliminary decision by the Court of Appeal at Douai, France).

Before the President, Judge H. Rauscher, and Judges M. Sorenson, C. Bosco, A. Donner, J. Mertens de Wilmars, P. Pescatore, A. Tesauro, and Advocate-General C. Reisch.

Mr Jean Razanatsimba, who is a national of Madagascar, had obtained the required professional qualifications to practise law in France (Licence en Droit, Certificat d'Aptitude à la Profession d'Avocat) and was currently working in the chambers of a French avocat in Lille.

Mr Razanatsimba had applied, on February 9, 1976, for admission as a junior counsel to the Lille bar. His application had been submitted to the Bar Council (Conseil de l'Ordre). By decision of December 14, 1976, that body had stated that the applicant met all the requirements to practise law in France, with the exception of the requirement that he be of French nationality. That requirement was laid down by (French) law of October 1965, and the EEC (Council) regulation No 187/66, January 30, 1976, of the Council.

reserved by the EEC states' domestic legislation to its own nationals, the applicant in the main action had argued that article 63 of the Lomé Convention was equal, in effect, to the provisions of the Lomé Convention on establishment and had referred to the European Court's judgment in the Reyners case (Reyners and Belgium State, judgment of 21 June 1974, case 2/74, ECR, I-1991, Times law report, July, 1974).

The court held that article 62 of the Lomé Convention does not admit such a construction. Article 62 (Lomé) refers to ACP states on the one hand and to EEC states on the other. It lays down that ACP states on the one hand and EEC states on the other shall treat nationals of member states and nationals of the ACP states respectively on a non-discriminatory basis.

That article, however, does not go so far as to guarantee equal treatment to nationals of an ACP state and to those of an EEC member state. More particularly, article 63 puts no obligation on either ACP or EEC states to grant to nationals of a state belonging to the other, concerning group, intended treatment, to that which is afforded to its own nationals.

## OVERSEAS

## Election tide running against Mr Fraser in Australian campaign

From Douglas Aiton  
Melbourne, Nov 27

With less than two weeks to go to the Australian general election on December 10, it is clear that the least important factor affecting the voters has been the policy speeches of the two leaders.

Although some may be aware that Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, has spoken of abolishing death duties and Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour leader, of abolishing payroll tax, their attention is focused on a series of more complicated events.

The people have displayed a volatility that is perhaps unprecedented in Australia. The opinion polls have been thrown into confusion, with unexpected events apparently causing vast changes in mood and no attention being given to those matters that usually hold the public's concern.

One thing is certain: Mr Fraser is in deep trouble and was unwise to call the election. The latest polls are putting the Labour Party ahead, even before the pollsters and public have time to digest the disastrous implications of the resignations of Mr Phillip Lynch, the Treasurer.

Perhaps more notice should have been taken of a Gallup Poll survey some months ago, when the question was whether Australia had too many elected members of parliament. The overwhelming 65 per cent say yes.

Despite that, Mr Fraser decided to call an election simply because he was sure he could win at the time. He justified his decision with a cutting remark that Britain's reputation for keeping its international obligations now rested with Parliament. If the direct elections did not pass "then make no doubt Britain's stock in Europe will sink to the lowest level since Suez in 1956".

Westminster would decide not only direct elections in Britain, but also in the rest of the EEC. The timetable of May-June, 1978, could be kept if the regional list system was adopted, and that required Tories to behave as patriots rather than partisans, he said.

Some Conservative Europeanists present showed during the day that they disapproved of the decision to call an election. They were some dissenters, too, when Lord George-Brown, in his best form, supported by Lord Duncan-Sandys, the only survivor present of the Hague congress of 1946 that brought post-war Europeanism into being, delivered his call to go the whole hog in Europeanism even at a bad time when support for membership of the EEC had been eroded for wrong reasons that it was not easy to meet in a public debate.

He said that the regional system of elections, but the 1978 timetable could be kept either way. The Government's "cavortings" had already produced uncertainty among British partners in the EEC, and even the most Anglophile of them had been affected.

The European objective of a political, economic, cultural, and defence entity meant a federal Europe, although even Europeanists were being driven to say, European nations were too small to be effective on their own and the Western alliance was too lopsided in its dependence on one super-power.

Mr Rippon showed that for direct elections he firmly supports the first past the post system, and refuses to believe that the 1978 timetable makes the rejection of the regional list system impracticable.

He said that British Europeanists should give full support to the development of European political, economic and cultural unity. Negotiations with the applicants for entry should be speeded up, and the target of January, 1980, should be set for the entry of Greece.

David Wood column, page 15

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David Wood column, page 15

## China begins phasing out party-rivalling 'revcoms'

From David Bonavia  
Hongkong, Nov 27

The majority of China's "revolutionary committees"—key administrative organs since 1967—are to be disbanded, according to reports from Peking which are supported by provincial broadcasts.

Abolishing the "revcoms", which brought order into the chaos caused by the Cultural Revolution, is a further sign of the emphasis placed by the present leadership on control by all levels.

Until now, any Chinese institution down to a primary school or small factory has been run by a revolutionary committee consisting of veteran administrators, representatives of the younger staff, and often military men as well.

But during the past few years they have often been used as rivals to the parallel party committees and as arenas for the launching of political struggles between ultra-left and moderate elements.

minities—for instance in schools and factories—are to be abolished, whereas those at the provincial and perhaps county level may continue, at least for the time being.

Many other previously sacred institutions of the Cultural Revolution—such as the radical educational policy—are also being quickly abolished in China's search for rapid modernisation through industry and technology.

It is not clear whether some other type of organization will be set up to cope with day-to-day administrative matters, such as the local soviets in Russia, under the general supervision of the party committees.

Party membership may also rise from about a per cent of the population in the Soviet Union to 6 per cent in the Soviet Union.

Another move by the authorities to reduce bureaucracy and unnecessary administrative expenses is indicated by a broadcast from Komsomol province, which has said party committees should "involve" workers and local staffs in being directly controlled.



## OVERSEAS

## New hope of Rhodesia settlement with Bishop Muzorewa's agreement to internal talks

From Frederick Cleary

Salisbury, Nov. 27—Bishop Abel Muzorewa's acceptance over the weekend of an invitation to attend an internal settlement conference has been greeted with relief by the Rhodesian Government.

Had he rejected the whole exercise would have collapsed the bishop's United African National Council (UANC) represents the largest influential internal African party, whereas the bishop previously agreed some time ago to accept Mr Ian Smith's invitation and conditions, there were fears that he might prevaricate as he has done in the past.

Speaking in Salisbury at a party youth rally, the bishop said that by ending the conference Mr Smith had capitulated and succumbed to demands for the transfer of power to the black majority. He called for the British Government to chair the conference, but he said it should be held in Salisbury, not London, as the British refused to accept independence coming on September 12, 1978.

He disclosed that he had met Mr Smith a week before and had told the Prime Minister that the UANC would take part in talks if he conceded

universal adult suffrage. It was his understanding that Mr Smith wanted to go along on this basis.

The bishop laid down specific demands to be accepted to enter the conference. They included the end to all "prisoners of war" of others concerned for political reasons and a provision for the safe return of all guerrillas. The talks, he said, must be held openly and the exercise must be completed for independence next year.

The bishop warned the British Government that there should be no chicanery and no "behind the scenes" deal. He said the way was clear for a constitutional conference if the British Government dithered and rushed around consulting people irrelevant to the situation. Then it would be known that the British did not care about the suffering and dying in Rhodesia.

Bishop Muzorewa did not suggest excluding the Patriotic Front of Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe from the talks, but he said he was sick and tired of groups and so-called leaders who saw the struggle as a romantic affair and lived comfortably in

the best hotels of Europe and Africa while our sons and daughters in the bush are dying, daily and suffering.

Rejecting Mr Smith's concern about two hundred people dying in the civil war, the bishop said: "Our beautiful country is thick with smoke and the groans of the dying are heard day and night."

All indications are that as soon as the Prime Minister can get them together, he and the internal black leaders will meet in Salisbury to agree on an agenda for detailed negotiations. Deep suspicion still abounds here, but the cooperative attitude of the internal leaders and the absence so far of much strong external criticism of the internal talks is beginning to raise a few faint flickers of hope.

The only white reaction so far to the prospect of a black government next year came from the Rhodesian Action Party which accused Mr Smith of surrendering the country. A party spokesman said the Government's action was a flagrant breach of undertakings given to the electorate at the general election in August.



Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, prays for victims of Nazism yesterday at the site of Belsen concentration camp at the start of his four-day visit to West Germany.

## Arabs in Israel may consult PLO

Continued from page 1

called the speech "constructive."

The Foreign Minister, who belonged to the Labour Party before he joined Mr Begin's Government, said that his basic position was not a precondition.

Other than the fact that he was negotiating, he said.

Meanwhile, Arabs in the occupied areas were in two minds about President Sadat's decision to consult Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip about his peace moves.

Arab mayors who support the PLO said it was an attempt to cut the organization out of the picture.

Mr Rashid Shweh, Mayor of Gaza, said he personally approved of President Sadat's peace moves but he believed they should be coordinated with the PLO.

Arab mayors were also to meet in Jerusalem today to discuss the oil strike in the Gulf of Suez off occupied

Sinai, may not interfere with peace moves. The strike is not far from where Egypt is producing oil but it is not yet clear whether the new field is commercially viable.

The PLO announced that it would boycott peace talks in Cairo as efforts continued to draw Iraq into the hard-line opposition to President Sadat.

Preparations are being made for a summit of Arab "hawks" in Tripoli on Thursday, aimed at creating a safe front against Mr Sadat.

Mr Mahmoud Labadi, a spokesman for the PLO, said the organization would boycott the proposed Cairo meeting and send a delegation to Tripoli instead.

The Tripoli summit is to bring together the leaders of Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Syria, the PLO and the "rejection front" of commando organizations opposed to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

But Iraq, the most consistent hard-line country in the Arab world, has so far resisted diplomatic efforts to persuade it to add its weight to the Tripoli meeting.

Damascus: President Assad will attend the Tripoli summit, officials said today.

The Damascus daily Al-Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Party,

suggested Mr Sadat had known all along that Syria and the PLO would not accept his invitation, which the newspaper called "mere playing-acting and an already prepared unilateral reconciliation" with Israel.

Mr Abdel-Hamid Khaddam, the Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, will leave tomorrow on a short visit to Moscow. Official sources said the trip was in response to an invitation from Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Amman's Jordanian newspapers dismissed President Sadat's call for peace consultations as purely for Israeli consumption, and said his initiative had doomed chances for a Geneva conference.

Rabat: Morocco, which welcomed President Sadat's visit to Israel, also remained silent officially on the call for a Middle East conference in Cairo. However, the Rabat newspaper Al-Maghrib criticized the Arab states which have protested against Egyptian peace moves.

Kuwait: Kuwait expressed regret over the serious divisions in the Arab world, in what was also seen as an indirect call for restraint among Mr Sadat's critics.

Mr Abdelaziz Husain, a minister of State, emphasized the importance of avoiding yet further "characteristic Arab ranks."—Reuter and UPI.

## Prisoners of conscience



## Argentina: Adolfo Pérez Esquivel

By David Watts

Senior Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, coordinator of the Service for Justice and Peace in Latin America, was detained by Argentine police on April 4 when he went to a police station in Buenos Aires to collect his passport.

After two days of persistent inquiry by his friends and the filing of a writ of habeas corpus, he was located in the central police headquarters.

Senior Pérez Esquivel, a sculptor and former professor of architecture, was elected coordinator of the service in 1974. It is an ecumenical organization embracing groups throughout the continent and aims to bring about social change by non-violent means.

The organization has started a campaign for human rights through conferences and appeals for action which are publicized in its magazine, *Paz y Justicia*. Its headquarters in Buenos Aires have been visited several times by police in recent months.

In a communiqué issued by the Argentine Interior Ministry in April, Señor Pérez Esquivel was described as a detainee in the "subversive" category. He is being held without charge or trial in a police prison in Buenos Aires province.

There are fears for the safety of the detainees in La Plata because of evidence that five prisoners were not officially executed between last January and March.

## Ethiopian forces 'cut off in Harer attack'

Mogadishu, Nov. 27—A large Ethiopian force was trapped in the eastern Shabelle valley as Somali forces continued their drive to capture the strategic mountain city of Harer, rebel sources said here.

The Ethiopians were reported to be at Babile Gap, about 23 miles east of Harer, and were cut off from reinforcements and supplies by advances of the Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF).

The number of soldiers trapped was not known, but observers here believed several thousand could be involved.

Babile Gap was the point where Ethiopian troops, supported by tanks and artillery, had held off the Somali forces since the middle of September, but they were outflanked recently by the rebel forces making a two-pronged attack on Harer.

The Ethiopians were surrounded by at least two groups of rebel forces, which also controlled hills flanking the Ethiopian position, sources said.

Since July, the Somali forces have wrested more than 95 per cent of Ethiopia's disputed Ogaden region from government control. Today they were poised just short of securing their greatest prize in the four-month-old conflict.—AP.

Dibouti, Nov. 27—Soviet and Cuban advisers with the Ethiopian army have been evacuated from Harer, according to sources here.

Observers said the evacuation indicated the city was gravely threatened by Somali forces. About 400 Soviet and Cuban personnel are helping the Ethiopians use Soviet-made military equipment.

Military analysts say that if Harer falls the railway route to the port of Djibouti, which is near by, will go too.

If the Somalis manage to take Harer they will be in a position to cut Dire Dawa's supply road to Addis Ababa and to close down the air base in the eastern part of the country, with shelling from the mountains.—Reuter.

## Leader of centre party resigns in Greece

From Our Correspondent

Athens, Nov. 27—Mr George Mavros, whose Democratic Centre Union (DCU) suffered a heavy defeat in the recent general elections, is to relinquish the party's leadership.

The DCU's parliamentary group is meeting tomorrow to consider the new situation. The group is composed of 15 deputies, 42 fewer than in the last Parliament. Mr John Pemsanoglou, a leading economist, is said to be the likeliest successor.

The party lost nearly half its votes, polling barely 12 per cent of the total and losing its position as the main opposition party to the Socialist Movement (PASOK) of Mr Andreas Papandreu.

Mr Mavros, who is 68, has been in politics for more than 30 years. He was a leading

member of the Liberal Party and later of the Centre Union under the late George Papandreu. He played an active part in the resistance against the military dictatorship and was elected leader of the DCU before the election of 1974.

In a statement announcing his resignation, he urged the party to preserve its unity and cohesion. He said: "The existence of the Democratic Centre is a national dictate. Its presence in politics is a guarantee for democratic normality and for the defence of our national interests."

Mr Mavros, during a meeting of the party's central committee, said he assumed full moral and political responsibility for the party's defeat. The party had been caught unprepared by the Government's decision to advance the election date by a year.

In his resignation, Mr Mavros said he was leaving the party to continue his work in the private sector.

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## Mr Bhutto refuses to let doctors examine him

From Our Correspondent

Musabab, Nov. 27—Mr Bhutto, Pakistan's former Prime Minister, who is standing trial on a murder charge, has refused to be examined in Lahore jail by a medical board.

The board was set up in the instruction of the court after Mr Bhutto's failure to attend the hearings in recent days.

Mr Bhutto's lawyer had written the court last week that the former Prime Minister was unable to attend on account of his illness. He was reported to be suffering from malaria and influenza. The lawyer claimed that though Mr Bhutto was not running a temperature, he was too weak to attend.

As the hearing resumed today, the court was told of Mr Bhutto's refusal to be medically examined. Mr Bhutto said he had not asked for medical aid and would not permit doctors to examine him for

what the medical board described as "his subjective feeling of weakness."

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Pakistan today began the preliminary hearing of Mr Bhutto's challenge to the legality of the High Court bench now trying him. A similar complaint was dismissed earlier by the High Court.

Mr Bhutto withdrew his application of bail, filed earlier in the Supreme Court, after the court stated that unless he was released, he would not be able to prove that no evidence of his complicity in the murder case had so far been produced in the High Court, bail could not be granted.

Mr Faraz, a young poet who was temporarily detained by Mr Bhutto's Government last May for having composed an anti-Government poem, has been removed from his post as director of the Academy of Letters. Mr Faraz has been accused of leftist leanings and heretical views in his poems.

## Gunman kills one, wounds 25 in dining club

Omaha, Nebraska, Nov. 27—An unemployed Vietnam war veteran fired six quick shots from a shotgun into a dining club crowded with more than 200 people last night, killing an off-duty police captain and wounding 25 others.

Ernest Cribbs, aged 32, was pressed without resistance about five hours later at his Omaha home. He held on to a copy of first degree murder and three counts of shooting with intent to kill, wounding or maim.

He just said he was angry. Police Lieutenant Foster Burdard said—UPI.

## How Korchnoi went two up against Spassky

Belgrade, Nov. 27—Viktor Korchnoi now leads by 21 points to 1 in his final chess candidates match against Boris Spassky after winning the third game on Friday night. These were the moves of the games:

White: Korchnoi, Black: Spassky.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Nxd4 6. Bxd4 Bc5 7. c3 Qb6 8. Bb3 Qa5 9. Qc2 Qxc3 10. Bxc3 Bxc3 11. Nxc3 d5 12. e5 c6 13. f4 d4 14. Nf3 Nf6 15. g4 h5 16. h4 g6 17. Nf3 Nf6 18. g5 h5 19. h4 g6 20. Nf3 Nf6 21. g5 h5 22. h4 g6 23. Nf3 Nf6 24. g5 h5 25. h4 g6 26. Nf3 Nf6 27. g5 h5 28. h4 g6 29. Nf3 Nf6 30. g5 h5 31. h4 g6 32. Nf3 Nf6 33. g5 h5 34. h4 g6 35. Nf3 Nf6 36. g5 h5 37. h4 g6 38. Nf3 Nf6 39. g5 h5 40. h4 g6 41. Nf3 Nf6 42. g5 h5 43. h4 g6 44. Nf3 Nf6 45. g5 h5 46. h4 g6 47. Nf3 Nf6 48. g5 h5 49. h4 g6 50. Nf3 Nf6 51. g5 h5 52. h4 g6 53. Nf3 Nf6 54. g5 h5 55. h4 g6 56. Nf3 Nf6 57. g5 h5 58. h4 g6 59. Nf3 Nf6 60. g5 h5 61. h4 g6 62. Nf3 Nf6 63. g5 h5 64. h4 g6 65. Nf3 Nf6 66. g5 h5 67. h4 g6 68. Nf3 Nf6 69. g5 h5 70. h4 g6 71. Nf3 Nf6 72. g5 h5 73. h4 g6 74. Nf3 Nf6 75. g5 h5 76. h4 g6 77. Nf3 Nf6 78. g5 h5 79. h4 g6 80. Nf3 Nf6 81. g5 h5 82. h4 g6 83. Nf3 Nf6 84. g5 h5 85. h4 g6 86. Nf3 Nf6 87. g5 h5 88. h4 g6 89. Nf3 Nf6 90. g5 h5 91. h4 g6 92. Nf3 Nf6 93. g5 h5 94. h4 g6 95. Nf3 Nf6 96. g5 h5 97. h4 g6 98. Nf3 Nf6 99. g5 h5 100. h4 g6 101. Nf3 Nf6 102. g5 h5 103. h4 g6 104. Nf3 Nf6 105. g5 h5 106. h4 g6 107. Nf3 Nf6 108. g5 h5 109. h4 g6 110. Nf3 Nf6 111. g5 h5 112. h4 g6 113. Nf3 Nf6 114. g5 h5 115. h4 g6 116. Nf3 Nf6 117. g5 h5 118. h4 g6 119. Nf3 Nf6 120. g5 h5 121. h4 g6 122. Nf3 Nf6 123. g5 h5 124. h4 g6 125. Nf3 Nf6 126. g5 h5 127. h4 g6 128. Nf3 Nf6 129. g5 h5 130. h4 g6 131. Nf3 Nf6 132. g5 h5 133. h4 g6 134. Nf3 Nf6 135. g5 h5 136. h4 g6 137. Nf3 Nf6 138. g5 h5 139. h4 g6 140. Nf3 Nf6 141. g5 h5 142. h4 g6 143. Nf3 Nf6 144. g5 h5 145. h4 g6 146. Nf3 Nf6 147. g5 h5 148. h4 g6 149. Nf3 Nf6 150. g5 h5 151. h4 g6 152. Nf3 Nf6 153. g5 h5 154. h4 g6 155. Nf3 Nf6 156. g5 h5 157. h4 g6 158. Nf3 Nf6 159. g5 h5 160. h4 g6 161. Nf3 Nf6 162. g5 h5 163. h4 g6 164. Nf3 Nf6 165. g5 h5 166. h4 g6 167. Nf3 Nf6 168. g5 h5 169. h4 g6 170. Nf3 Nf6 171. g5 h5 172. h4 g6 173. Nf3 Nf6 174. g5 h5 175. h4 g6 176. Nf3 Nf6 177. g5 h5 178. h4 g6 179. Nf3 Nf6 180. g5 h5 181. h4 g6 182. Nf3 Nf6 183. g5 h5 184. h4 g6 185. Nf3 Nf6 186. g5 h5 187. h4 g6 188. Nf3 Nf6 189. g5 h5 190. h4 g6 191. Nf3 Nf6 192. g5 h5 193. h4 g6 194. Nf3 Nf6 195. g5 h5 196. h4 g6 197. Nf3 Nf6 198. g5 h5 199. h4 g6 200. Nf3 Nf6 201. g5 h5 202. h4 g6 203. Nf3 Nf6 204. g5 h5 205. h4 g6 206. Nf3 Nf6 207. g5 h5 208. h4 g6 209. Nf3 Nf6 210. g5 h5 211. h4 g6 212. Nf3 Nf6 213. g5 h5 214. h4 g6 215. Nf3 Nf6 216. g5 h5 217. h4 g6 218. Nf3 Nf6 219. g5 h5 220. h4 g6 221. Nf3 Nf6 222. g5 h5 223. h4 g6 224. Nf3 Nf6 225. g5 h5 226. h4 g6 227. Nf3 Nf6 228. g5 h5 229. h4 g6 230. Nf3 Nf6 231. g5 h5 232. h4 g6 233. Nf3 Nf6 234. g5 h5 235. h4 g6 236. Nf3 Nf6 237. g5 h5 238. h4 g6 239. Nf3 Nf6 240. g5 h5 241. h4 g6 242. Nf3 Nf6 243. g5 h5 244. h4 g6 245. Nf3 Nf6 246. g5 h5 247. h4 g6 248. Nf3 Nf6 249. g5 h5 250. h4 g6 251. Nf3 Nf6 252. g5 h5 253. h4 g6 254. Nf3 Nf6 255. g5 h5 256. h4 g6 257. Nf3 Nf6 258. g5 h5 259. h4 g6 260. Nf3 Nf6 261. g5 h5 262. h4 g6 263. Nf3 Nf6 264. g5 h5 265. h4 g6 266. Nf3 Nf6 267. g5 h5 268. h4 g6 269. Nf3 Nf6 270. g5 h5 271. h4 g6 272. Nf3 Nf6 273. g5 h5 274. h4 g6 275. Nf3 Nf6 276. g5 h5 277. h4 g6 278. Nf3 Nf6 279. g5 h5 280. h4 g6 281. Nf3 Nf6 282. g5 h5 283. h4 g6 284. Nf3 Nf6 285. g5 h5 286. h4 g6 287. Nf3 Nf6 288. g5 h5 289. h4 g6 290. Nf3 Nf6 291. g5 h5 292. h4 g6 293. Nf3 Nf6 294. g5 h5 295. h4 g6 296. Nf3 Nf6 297. g5 h5 298. h4 g6 299. Nf3 Nf6 300. g5 h5 301. h4 g6 302. Nf3 Nf6 303. g5 h5 304. h4 g6 305. Nf3 Nf6 306. g5 h5 307. h4 g6 308. Nf3 Nf6 309. g5 h5 310. h4 g6 311. Nf3 Nf6 312. g5 h5 313. h4 g6 314. Nf3 Nf6 315. g5 h5 316. h4 g6 317. Nf3 Nf6 318. g5 h5 319. h4 g6 320. Nf3 Nf6 321. g5 h5 322. h4 g6 323. Nf3 Nf6 324. g5 h5 325. h4 g6 326. Nf3 Nf6 327. g5 h5 328. h4 g6 329. Nf3 Nf6 330. g5 h5 331. h4 g6 332. Nf3 Nf6 333. g5 h5 334. h4 g6 335. Nf3 Nf6 336. g5 h5 337. h4 g6 338. Nf3 Nf6 339. g5 h5 340. h4 g6 341. Nf3 Nf6 342. g5 h5 343. h4 g6 344. Nf3 Nf6 345. g5 h5 346. h4 g6 347. Nf3 Nf6 348. g5 h5 349. h4 g6 350. Nf3 Nf6 351. g5 h5 352. h4 g6 353. Nf3 Nf6 354. g5 h5 355. h4 g6 356. Nf3 Nf6 357. g5 h5 358. h4 g6 359. Nf3 Nf6 360. g5 h5 361. h4 g6 362. Nf3 Nf6 363. g5 h5 364. h4 g6 365. Nf3 Nf6 366. g5 h5 367. h4 g6 368. Nf3 Nf6 369. g5 h5 370. h4 g6 371. Nf3 Nf6 372. g5 h5 373. h4 g6 374. Nf3 Nf6 375. g5 h5 376. h4 g6 377. Nf3 Nf6 378. g5 h5 379. h4 g6 380. Nf3 Nf6 381. g5 h5 382. h4 g6 383. Nf3 Nf6 384. g5 h5 385. h4 g6 386. Nf3 Nf6 387. g5 h5 388. h4 g6 389. Nf3 Nf6 390. g5 h5 391. h4 g6 392. Nf3 Nf6 393. g5 h5 394. h4 g6 395. Nf3 Nf6 396. g5 h5 397. h4 g6 398. Nf3 Nf6 399. g5 h5 400. h4 g6 401. Nf3 Nf6 402. g5 h5 403. h4 g6 404. Nf3 Nf6 405. g5 h5 406. h4 g6 407. Nf3 Nf6 408. g5 h5 409. h4 g6 410. Nf3 Nf6 411. g5 h5 412. h4 g6 413. Nf3 Nf6 414. g5 h5 415. h4 g6 416. Nf3 Nf6 417. g5 h5 418. h4 g6 419. Nf3 Nf6 420. g5 h5 421. h4 g6 422. Nf3 Nf6 423. g5 h5 424. h4 g6 425. Nf3 Nf6 426. g5 h5 427. h4 g6 428. 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Nf3 Nf6 513. g5 h5 514. h4 g6 515. Nf3 Nf6 516. g5 h5 517. h4 g6 518. Nf3 Nf6 519. g5 h5 520. h4 g6 521. Nf3 Nf6 522. g5 h5 523. h4 g6 524. Nf3 Nf6 525. g5 h5 526. h4 g6 527. Nf3 Nf6 528. g5 h5 529. h4 g6 530. Nf3 Nf6 531. g5 h5 532. h4 g6 533. Nf3 Nf6 534. g5 h5 535. h4 g6 536. Nf3 Nf6 537. g5 h5 538. h4 g6 539. Nf3 Nf6 540. g5 h5 541. h4 g6 542. Nf3 Nf6 543. g5 h5 544. h4 g6 545. Nf3 Nf6 546. g5 h5 547. h4 g6 548. Nf3 Nf6 549. g5 h5 550. h4 g6 551. Nf3 Nf6 552. g5 h5 553. h4 g6 554. Nf3 Nf6 555. g5 h5 556. h4 g6 557. Nf3 Nf6 558. g5 h5 559. h4 g6 560. Nf3 Nf6 561. g5 h5 562. h4 g6 563. Nf3 Nf6 564. g5 h5 565. h4 g6 566. Nf3 Nf6 567. g5 h5 568. h4 g6 569. Nf3 Nf6 570. g5 h5 571. h4 g6 572. Nf3 Nf6 573. g5 h5 574. h4 g6 575. Nf3 Nf6 576. g5 h5 577. h4 g6 578. Nf3 Nf6 579. g5 h5 580. h4 g6 581. Nf3 Nf6 582. g5 h5 583. h4 g6 584. Nf3 Nf6 585. g5 h5 586. h4 g6 587. Nf3 Nf6 588. g5 h5 589. h4 g6 590. Nf3 Nf6 591. g5 h5 592. h4 g6 593. Nf3 Nf6 594. g5 h5 595. h4 g6 596. 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Nf3 Nf6 681. g5 h5 68



# Commercial Property



An artist's impression of Jubilee House, now nearing completion in the Park Place conservation area in Leeds.

## Industrial market most active

A notable improvement in the industrial property market over the past few months, with far greater activity than at any time since 1972/73, is noted in a report by Jones Lang Wootton. They say that in a generally improved economic climate the industrial market has outpaced other sectors of property.

The firm, which has let, sold or acquired nearly 3 million sq ft of industrial and warehouse space so far this year—a considerable increase over last year's figure for the same period—says that with a upturn in demand and a reduction in supply there are now pronounced rises in rents in most areas of the country.

Rents of more than £2 a sq ft are being achieved frequently for small warehouse or industrial units in prime areas of the south-east close to motorways and airports. Demand for larger warehouse or industrial units is improving, but in some areas rents are still depressed. The report also makes the point that with reduced interest rates, building costs relatively stable and a substantial increase in demand, prices of industrial land have increased dramatically.

A year to 18 months ago, prices of £100,000 an acre were rare. Now they are commonplace in the south-east and more than £200,000 an acre has been paid for certain prime sites. Development land is now scarce and the report cautions the property industry to guard against the over-optimistic atmosphere of 1972/73. A further point is that institutions with plenty of money and strong growth potential and the upsurge in demand in the industrial sector and, accordingly, have been keen buyers of prime industrial investments, lowering rates to below seven per cent.

Topping out ceremonies on two large office blocks in London last week served to show that the construction industry continues to be active, even if the general tempo is slower than it would like.

One was on Beilgrave House at 76 Buckingham Palace Road, the largest of the three elements in the big scheme, being carried out by MEPC Ltd. Due for completion in November, 1978, it will be the new headquarters of BP Chemicals. Designed by T. P. Bennett and Son, the new block will provide 230,000 sq ft of air-conditioned offices to accommodate a staff of 700. Construction is by Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, who are also contractors for the mainly residential element of the development in Ebury Street, which comprises 96 flats, six shops and a restaurant.

Architects for this section are Ted Levy Benjamin and Partners and completion is due in two stages during next year. Work on the third element, a refurbishment of Chancery House, Buckingham Palace Road, will be started by Bovis next February and this will provide 77,000 sq ft of offices and 5,000 sq ft of floor shopping. The freehold of the entire site is owned by the Corporation of London.

The other ceremony concerned Caxton House at 6-12 Tottenham Street, which Trollope and Colls are building for Holloways Properties, part of Commercial Union, on a contract worth £10.5m. Completion is due in the spring of 1979 and the design by Chapman Taylor Partners provides for a total of more than 250,000 sq ft on basement, ground and seven floors.

The former building on the site was completed by the Department of the Environment and the greater part of the new building is expected to be occupied by the Property Services Agency of the DOE. A banking hall which is included in the scheme has been taken by National Westminster. Away from central London, County and District Properties, after a successful appeal, has obtained planning consent for 70,000 sq ft of offices on part of their site in London Road, Epsom.

This is the first stage of a proposed scheme planned ultimately to provide some 225,000 sq ft of offices. One of the few in the area which can accommodate a scheme of this size, the site is well placed for access to London Airport and central London. County and District are looking for prospective occupiers with requirements from 20,000 sq ft upwards. The scheme has been planned to be easily divided into a number of self-contained buildings. Agents for County and District are Kenyon, Godfrey & M. Young.

Nearing completion in Leeds is Jubilee House, a new office development in the Park Place conservation area. The scheme is being carried out by Wimpey Property Holdings, with International Project Management as the project managers and George Wimpey and Co as main contractors.

Many of the adjoining buildings in the area are Georgian properties listed as being of special architectural or historical interest, and the design of the new building takes this into account with similar proportions and a red brick front.

It contains about 40,850 sq ft of offices. The architects are Leach Riefler and Walker and the building is being offered for leasing through Westhampstead Estate Agents, 100 Tottenham Street, London, and Wetherall and Co, of Manchester. No rent figure is being quoted yet but modern offices in the area are letting at between £4 and £5 a sq ft.

Acting for W. H. Smith and Sons, Edward Erdman and Co have arranged the purchase and financing of 104-106 Princes Street, Edinburgh, a shop with ancillary offices on basement, ground and six upper floors. The purchase was from Arrowcroft Investments, advised by J. B. Davidson, and the price was £2.7m.

Overall funding amounting to nearly £4m, including the purchase price, was by way of leaseback with the Pension Fund Property Unit Trust, after the ground lease was returned and on the basis of a major refurbishment and shop fitting work by Smiths. Jones Lang Wootton advised the trust. The building was formerly occupied by Smiths, a subsidiary of the House of Fraser.

The freehold interest in Trafalgar House, at Altrincham, Cheshire, has been acquired by the Wyley and General Assurance Society for a reported £500,000. Trafalgar House is a modern three-storey building where tenants include Hewlett-Packard Ltd and Allied Polymer Group. The rent roll is about £55,000 a year. Dunlop Heywood and Co, of Manchester, acted for Wyley and General and the vendors were represented by W. H. Robinson and Co and W. H. Wetherall and Co.

Gerald Ely

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PO Box 3 Peterborough PE1 1JJ

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Prestige offices. Mortimer St., 1,500 sq. ft. available for 2 years. Rent £9,000 p.a. excl. Telephone: Mr. Berlyn Arram, Berlyn Gardner & Co.

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## Business Opportunities

FOR SALE—Registered French company with small staff and good reputation. Established 1950. Turnover £250,000. Profits £25,000. Price £150,000. Enquiries to: Mr. J. B. Davidson, 100 Tottenham Street, London W1P 0LP.

## PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

### IN PARLIAMENT

#### Session 1977-78

##### LONDON TRANSPORT

NOTICE is hereby given that the London Transport Executive has received from the Secretary of State for Transport a copy of the Bill for the London Transport (Amendment) Bill, 1977, which is now before the House of Commons.

The Bill is intended to amend the London Transport Act, 1962, in relation to the powers of the Executive in connection with the operation of the London Underground.

The Bill is expected to be introduced in the House of Commons in the near future.

For further information, please contact the London Transport Executive, 100 Tottenham Street, London W1P 0LP.

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## PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

### IN PARLIAMENT

#### Session 1977-78

##### GREATER LONDON COUNCIL

###### (GENERAL POWERS) (No. 2)

Notice is hereby given that the Greater London Council has received from the Secretary of State for the Environment a copy of the Bill for the Greater London Council (General Powers) Bill, 1977, which is now before the House of Commons.

The Bill is intended to amend the Greater London Council Act, 1963, in relation to the powers of the Council in connection with the operation of the Greater London Council.

The Bill is expected to be introduced in the House of Commons in the near future.

For further information, please contact the Greater London Council, 100 Tottenham Street, London W1P 0LP.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

### LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL

#### Reading

Entrance Scholarships for 1978-79. The school has a long tradition of excellence in the field of education. Scholarships are awarded to boys who have achieved high marks in the entrance examinations. The scholarships are for a period of four years and cover the cost of tuition, books, and other school expenses. The school is located in Leighton Park, Reading, and is a member of the Public Schools Association.

Further particulars from: The London Secretary, 100 Tottenham Street, London W1P 0LP. 01-338 4518. Closing date for applications 8.1.78.

## COURSES

### University of Bradford

#### POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING

Applications for the above Postgraduate Diploma should be sent to the University of Bradford, 100 Tottenham Street, London W1P 0LP. The diploma is for students who have completed a first degree in a relevant subject. It is a two-year course and covers the theory and practice of interpreting and translating. The diploma is awarded by the University of Bradford and is recognized by the British Association of Translators and Interpreters.

Further particulars from: The London Secretary, 100 Tottenham Street, London W1P 0LP. 01-338 4518. Closing date for applications 8.1.78.

## DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

### LADY'S MAID

Ladies' Maid required for lady with 4 year old son, whose principal residence is in Paris. Fluent English and reasonable French are essential. Age about 30-40 years. A pleasant and calm personality are other important attributes. Preference will be given to applicants with previous experience and references. Excellent salary. Opportunity for travel. Other staff kept. Please apply to Miss Beggs at: The Adam Suite, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, W.1 or phone 628 8888 (Business hours) or 352 0234 (between 8-10 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.)

## COOK

Experienced qualified and responsible cook, required for Director's residence in the office of International Monetary Fund. Interviews will be held in London on Tuesday, 28th November and Wednesday, 29th November. Applicants should contact: 01-236 5161 prior to these dates to arrange an appointment.

## CHAUFFEUR & HOUSEKEEPER

Lady's country home in the heart of the Cotswolds. Excellent salary. Good references essential. Please write: Box 0087 K, The Times.

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## Educational &amp; Public Appointments

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DEMONSTRATOR

Preference will be given to applicants with PhD degrees or equivalent postgraduate experience and research interests in the fields of Medical or Nutritional Biochemistry, Medical Microbiology or Toxicology. The appointment is for 3 years.

Incremental salary up to £3,761 (depending on age and qualifications).

BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
ACCOUNTANCY

## RESEARCH FELLOW

TUTORIAL ASSISTANT  
(to work for PhD)

Three year appointments, commencing as soon as possible, will involve research and tutorial teaching in the areas of Organisational Behaviour or Business Policy and Accounting and Finance respectively.

Salary: Research Fellow—£2,832/£3,574/£3,761  
Tutorial Assistant—£2,040/£2,179/£2,333

Closing date: December 16 1977  
Requests (quoting reference 7) for details and application forms to Personnel Section (Academic), UWIST, Cardiff CF1 3NU.

University of Wales  
Lecturer

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Lecturer in the Management of Social Services in the Centre for Development Studies, to work with an interdisciplinary team engaged in postgraduate teaching and research on social policy, management planning and administration of social services in developing countries.

The appointment will be on the scale £3,333-£5,635 per annum, together with USS/USPS benefits.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University College  
LondonDEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS  
TEMPORARY  
LECTURER

Applications are invited from individuals qualified to teach in the Department of Physics for a period of one year, commencing in October 1978. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the field of Quantum Mechanics and to supervise postgraduate research.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

The British Academy  
ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY  
(PUBLICATIONS)

An experienced person is required to assist the Secretary in the publication programme which includes the production of a series of books on the history of the Academy.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

The University of Oxford  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
OF MEDICAL HISTORY

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Associate Professor of Medical History, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Medical History.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

Imperial College of  
Science and Technology  
LECTURERSHIP IN  
MATHEMATICS

It is proposed to fill a vacant Lectureship in the Department of Mathematics, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Mathematics.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

The University of Oxford  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
OF MEDICAL HISTORY

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Associate Professor of Medical History, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Medical History.

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COUNTY OF CLEVELAND  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENTSenior Assistant  
Education Officer

Co-ordination, Planning & Development  
£8,119-£8,707

Applications are invited for the above third tier post in the Education Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the co-ordination, planning and development of the Education Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the co-ordination, planning and development of the Education Department.

Application forms and further particulars are available from the County Education Officer, Education Office, Westlands Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3BN. Closing date for receipt of applications 19th December, 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
KUMASI — GHANA

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for the post of:

## LIBRARIAN

Candidates should be qualified Librarians and should have had considerable post-qualifying experience in a University Library or comparable institution.

DUTIES: The successful candidate will be in charge of the University Library in all its aspects.

SALARY: C12,346 p.a.

Other benefits include subsidised accommodation, free medical facilities and car maintenance allowance. A free British Government subsidy of £3,228 p.a. (£5,952 single) may be payable to successful applicant of British or Irish nationality.

Applications should be sent to the Overseas Recruitment Section, University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 10, Kumasi, Ghana. Closing date: 20th December 1977.

## UNIVERSITY OF YORK

CHAIR OF ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL  
HISTORY

Applications are invited for the Chair of Economic and Social History in the Department of Economics and Related Studies, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Economic and Social History.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Edinburgh  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
IN MEDICAL  
STATISTICS

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Research Associate in Medical Statistics, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Medical Statistics.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

The British Academy  
ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY  
(PUBLICATIONS)

An experienced person is required to assist the Secretary in the publication programme which includes the production of a series of books on the history of the Academy.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

Imperial College of  
Science and Technology  
LECTURERSHIP IN  
MATHEMATICS

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CAREERS SERVICE BRANCH  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENTCareers  
Service  
Inspector

Applications are invited from serving careers officers or candidates with recent practical experience in the Careers Service of a LEA for an appointment as Inspector on the staff of the Careers Service Inspectorate on an unestablished basis of a 3 year engagement which may be extended up to 5 years.

The post is based in Birmingham and the duties will involve travelling mainly in Midlands.

Salary scale £4,900-£5,900 per annum (plus supplement of £522 per annum). Starting pay according to qualifications and experience. The possibility of secondment would be discussed with the successful candidate's present employer.

Application forms from Miss W. M. Browne, Department of Employment, 1st A/B, 1 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LL. Closing date for applications 9th December, 1977.

## ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

ELIZABETH WORDSWORTH JUNIOR RESEARCH  
FELLOWSHIP

St. Hugh's College proposes to elect to an Elizabeth Wordsworth Junior Research Fellowship, tenable for three years from Michaelmas Term, 1978. The annual value will be £1,650 with residence.

Further particulars from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by Monday, 9th January, 1978.

## UNIVERSITY OF YORK

CHAIR OF  
ELECTRONICS

The University is establishing a Department of Electronics which will admit its first students in October 1978. Applications are invited from people with interests in post-graduate electronics for the post of Professor of Electronics.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

## UNIVERSITY OF YORK

CHAIR OF  
ARCHAEOLOGY

The University is establishing a Department of Archaeology which will admit its first students in October 1978. Applications are invited from people with interests in post-graduate archaeology for the post of Professor of Archaeology.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Hong Kong  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
PHYSICIAN

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Deputy Director of the Department of Medicine, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Medicine.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Exeter  
SSRC RESEARCH  
ASSISTANTSHIP

Applications are invited for the vacancy of SSRC Research Assistantship, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Research.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Kent at  
Canterbury  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
FOR SPACE SHUTTLE  
EXPERIMENT

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Research Associate for Space Shuttle Experiment, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Space Shuttle Experiment.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Khartoum  
SUDAN

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Sudan, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Sudan.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of London  
King's College  
DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOCHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Department of Biochemistry, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Biochemistry.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE  
NEW SOUTH WALES

The University invites applications for the following academic positions:

## LECTURER—DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY: From persons qualified in the area of Sociology and Anthropology.

LECTURER—DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS: Applicants should possess a PhD degree in Linguistics and have a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Linguistics.

## LECTURER—DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING: From persons qualified in the area of Electrical Engineering.

LECTURER—DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY: From persons qualified in the area of Physiology and have a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Physiology.

## LECTURER—DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY: From persons qualified in the area of Geography and have a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Geography.

LECTURER—DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY: From persons qualified in the area of Psychology and have a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Psychology.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS IN  
NEW NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

The Inter-University Council intends to extend the regular of candidates for appointments in the new Nigerian universities.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
OXFORDJUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP  
IN MODERN LANGUAGES

The College proposes, if there should be a suitable candidate, to elect one Junior Research Fellowship in Modern Languages from 1st October 1978 to 30th September 1980.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Sierra Leone  
NIALA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Applications are invited for the vacancy of NIALA University College, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of NIALA University College.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

The University of  
Zambia

Applications are invited for the vacancy of The University of Zambia, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of The University of Zambia.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

Victoria University of  
Wellington  
NEW ZEALAND  
CHAIR OF LAW

The Council of the Victoria University of Wellington invites applications for the vacancy of Chair of Law, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Law.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of London  
CHAIR OF  
PHYSIOLOGY

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Chair of Physiology, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Physiology.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Bristol  
DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Department of Veterinary Medicine, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

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## AUSTRALIA

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Australia, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Australia.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

University of Melbourne  
LECTURER—  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Lecturer in the Department of Economics, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Economics.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
LECTURER/SENIOR  
LECTURER IN ORAL  
PATHOLOGY

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Oral Pathology, to be filled by a person with a PhD degree and a minimum of five years' postgraduate experience in the field of Oral Pathology.

Further particulars and application forms (two copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to whom they should be returned by Wednesday, December 21, 1977.

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also on page 6





**SECRETARIAL**

[REDACTED]

**Also on pages 5 and 25**























## Stock Exchange Prices

# Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End Dec 9. & Commence Day Dec-12 Settlement Day Dec 20

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]



Y & Co  
r & Sons



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Problems faced  
by America's  
car makers,  
page 21

### MPs' watchdog committee urged to investigate terms of Polish ships deal

By Peter Hill

**Industrial Correspondent**

The Public Accounts Committee has been asked to initiate an urgent and wide-ranging investigation into the terms of the controversial £115m Anglo-Polish shipbuilding deal.

This emerged yesterday as efforts were being made to prevent the loss of a large slice of the contract to Lynedoch, because of an overtime ban by striking workers. Failure to secure guarantees from the men will lead to the reallocation of the £52m seven-ship package to other yards, with several hundred redundancies at Swan Hunter.

Mr Michael Grylls, MP, vice-chairman of the opposition's Industry Committee, said yesterday that he had written to Mr Edward du Cann, MP, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), asking him to convene an emergency session to investigate the deal.

His request, he explained, followed the refusal of Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, to place a copy of the contract signed last week between British Shipbuilders and the Polish government in the House of Commons Library on the grounds that the terms of the deal were "commercially confidential".

"It may be a good deal, but it is not in a position to be made public," he said. "On the other hand it may be very bad, but it is not in a position to be made public."

The PAC, Parliament's watchdog on government spending,



Mr Michael Grylls, MP, vice-chairman of the opposition's Industry Committee, said yesterday that he had written to Mr Edward du Cann, MP, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), asking him to convene an emergency session to investigate the deal.

could, Mr Grylls said, provide details by questioning Mr Varley and other ministers, together with Whitehall officials and executives of British Shipbuilders.

It would be able to establish the extent of the subsidy given to the deal, the terms of the charter arrangements, the number of jobs saved and the number threatened by the operation of the ship. It could also examine the terms of the deal, but it is not in a position to do so, he said.

British shipowners have remained suspicious of the deal, and their fears are unlikely to be allayed until more details have been given.

Intense behind-the-scenes

efforts continued over the weekend to find a solution to the impasse at Swan Hunter, where 1,700 outfitting workers have refused to lift their 13-week overtime ban in support of demands for pay parity with boilermakers.

Lifting the ban and guaranteeing full cooperation would lead to confirmation of the order by British Shipbuilders, which has a deadline of midnight Friday for a decision, but would be prepared to reconsider if there were a change of heart.

Japanese yards are taking a fresh interest in the ships.

Mr John Chaloner, general secretary of the Boilermakers' Society, said a part-time member of the shipyard's board, said he had been in touch with British Shipbuilders' executives over the weekend to try to develop some new initiative to prevent Swan Hunter's closing.

British Shipbuilders said that it would be in a position to re-allocate the order by tomorrow or Wednesday unless there was a change of heart from the outfitting workers.

Mr David Hanson, chairman of the outfitting shop stewards' committee, said the workers recognized the importance of the deal, but it is not in a position to do so, he said. "It is not in a position to be made public," he said. "On the other hand it may be very bad, but it is not in a position to be made public."

### BBC switch expected to boost radio sales

By Our Commercial Editor

Some leading suppliers of radio sets are preparing to "ask heavily" for an expected increase in sales when the BBC switches the band locations of its radio programmes.

Many existing sets of the cheaper, largely imported, two-band variety, sold in large numbers between 1971 and 1973, are unlikely to give the coverage wanted after next November.

Such two-band models often cover only medium wave and the very high frequency (VHF) bands. One of the main reasons for the move is to make it possible to give the information and drama channel—from medium to long wave.

Radio 4 service on VHF—no VHF bands are affected by the changes—will be retained, but with the existing long wave transmissions.

Dial displays marking the tuning spots for BBC and other stations will be outdated by the changes.

The size of the potential market for the new sets is the subject of a substantial public information campaign next year—is a matter of some debate among

British makers. Rank Radio, a leading British supplier, which has been heavily involved in forecasting a 25 per cent increase in the market next year.

Mr Peter Booth, Rank's commercial manager for the radio sector, said: "With publicity on the band changes starting early next year, there will be an enormous difference to portable radio sales."

"We believe most people will switch to three-band radios, a contributory factor being that the imported two-band radios that were selling so well in the early seventies will in many cases be nearing the end of their life anyway."

Not all makers are as optimistic about the sales effect of the changes. At Fidelity Radio, one of the few British firms still manufacturing radios, Mr Jeffrey Dickman, sales manager, is not expecting a big surge in sales around November but only a gradual "filter" effect as the public becomes aware of the changes after the switching.

Fidelity, which picks out station names on its radio dials, will be putting through adjusted dial markings early in the new year.

### Disciplinary move by accountants

By Nicholas Hirst

A committee is likely to be set up next week to consider how to implement the recently published Cross report on the disciplinary procedures of the accountancy profession.

It will include members of all three accountancy bodies to which the report was made: the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Scottish Institute and the Association of Certified Accountants.

Although a chairman has not yet been appointed, it is understood that Mr John Granside, senior partner of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and a former president of the English Institute, has been approached and is prepared to take on the job.

The Cross report recommended that tribunals be set up to consider cases of misconduct by accountants where the public interest was involved, and suggested that the accountancy bodies investigate whether they could gain arbitration powers to compel third-party witnesses to appear before tribunals.

It is far from certain whether the accountants could gain such powers.

### IMF team sees Bank officials today as talks on Britain's 1978 targets enter second week

By David Blake

Britain's talks with the International Monetary Fund enter their second week today with a visit by the IMF team, led by Mr Alan Whitmore, to the Bank of England.

The talks seem to be proceeding smoothly, but it is not yet clear what the IMF team will look for at the end of this week as fund officials continue their detailed examination of prospects for the United Kingdom economy and the appropriate targets for next year.

There seems to have been no change in government thinking about the desirability of fixing the exchange rate for the pound sterling, but the IMF team is expected to be in a position to make a decision on whether to recommend a fixed rate for the pound sterling.

DCS is the sum of bank lending to the private sector and to the Government and thus provides a measure of credit creation within the British economy. The Government is known to want a ceiling con-

siderably above the £5,000m target forecast at the time of the Letter of Intent, agreeing terms with the IMF at the end of 1976.

A present figure of around £7,000m to £7,500m seems roughly in line with government thinking, because the surplus on the current account balance of payments is likely to be around £1,000m below the £2,000m to £3,000m expected in December, 1976.

In practice, the Government is more directly concerned with the money supply targets which it feels influence domestic inflation, such as the inflation rate. Since the money supply is equal to DCS and the balance of payments surplus added together, a smaller payments surplus means there has to be greater expansion of domestic credit to achieve any given increase in the money supply.

However, the Government remains determined not to set rigid targets for DCS. This determination not to become too committed too far in

advance applies even more strongly to the "performance criteria"—the secret quarterly figures are broken down to enable the fund and the Government to monitor United Kingdom progress.

There seems to be no great desire for a large increase in the £8,600m target for public sector borrowing next year which, on the basis of an unpublished Treasury forecast assuming 15 per cent earnings growth, is thought to suggest room for about £1,800m tax cuts in the April Budget.

The feeling in Whitehall seems to be that problems of Government funding of its deficit and the money supply constraints would make a higher ceiling than this of little use.

One other issue to be resolved during the coming talks is the possibility that the United Kingdom might repay some of the money it borrowed from the IMF, with the first drawing of \$800m being mentioned as a possibility. Al-

though the Government does not like the idea of giving up medium-term funds, there would probably be no insuperable barrier to this, and the fund is desperately short of money.

Fund officials pleaded in Paris last week for an increase in quotas of around 75 per cent, saying that lack of funds was hampering their ability to negotiate arrangements with countries in trouble. Its staff argues that the refusal of countries such as Portugal to accept the tough terms being proposed for an IMF loan is caused by the fact that so little money is available that it is hardly worth a country's while taking it. More money could lead to tighter conditions, fund officials argue.

Repayment by Britain would do little to help, however, since most of the money for the United Kingdom came from the special facility of the General Arrangements to Borrow of the Group of 10 industrial countries, and it would go back to them, not to the fund itself.

### BSC crisis questions for ministers

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Two ministers at the centre of the gathering storm created by the financial crisis at the British Steel Corporation face close questioning this week on the measures they propose.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Gerald Kaufman, his Minister of State, are to appear before the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries which has reopened its investigation into the BSC after the deterioration in the corporation's fortunes since the committee formally closed its investigation in the summer.

But neither Mr Varley nor Mr Kaufman expected to reveal much of what is planned, since the final shape of the measures has still not been decided. It will be some weeks before Mr Varley is able to make a formal statement to the Commons.

The committee has already spoken to Sir Charles Villiers, the BSC chairman, Mr Bill Sims, secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and Mr Joel Bassett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Against the background of a half-year loss of £201m and expected losses for the full year of at least £500m, Mr Bassett made it clear that no alleviation of the £950m cash limit was planned.

The Government is known to be anxious to maintain a reasonable level of investment by the BSC to make up for shortfalls in the past, but it is becoming clear that the changed market circumstances throughout the world will involve a reshaping and rephrasing of the development plan.

Some projects have already been postponed. Unions have demanded that investment be maintained, and this is a necessary condition of any pact which will involve the BSC's making a reduction in the BSC's manning levels,

### Efficiency of mergers queried in Whitehall

By Derek Harris

Increasing Whitehall concern over evidence that big companies created by mergers often lead either to little increase in efficiency, or even to a less efficient use of resources, is a factor being taken into account in the review of government competition policy. Details of this review have been promised this week by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Evidence has been accumulating in various academic studies, mainly in Britain and the United States. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has also been sponsoring research into the problem, and the preliminary reports to support the general trend of other academic studies.

One problem for the Government if the implications of the evidence are accepted is that there could be clashes with its industrial strategy for increasing in keeping big loss-making companies going with public funds.

Nevertheless, wider-ranging powers for government agencies monitoring competition and intervening to promote competition are likely to be the outcome of the competition policy review. It might even bring into the net the operations of large conglomerates whose individual sectors are active on the face of it, but do not raise a monopoly problem.

Ideas used in the Swedish system for surveillance of prices and cartels are expected to figure in the Government's review of changing the present system.

The aim is to eliminate the overlap existing between the OFT, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Price Commission and the Restrictive Practices Court.

the two could operate individually. A change would be a matter for the next government, for establishing a new structure is thought to be at least two years away.

In the Swedish system the Price and Cartel Office largely combines the roles of the British Price Commission and the Monopolies Commission. But it is an anti-trusts ombudsman who judges cartel cases, a function performed in the United Kingdom by the Monopolies Commission.

In the British system the strictly legal base on which the Monopolies Commission operates can be shown to be too inflexible as commercial situations alter, but the Swedish system is rather more flexible.

The ombudsman—who also has an opposite number looking at strictly consumer interests—relies a great deal on negotiations to eliminate harmful effects of restraints on competition.

With a British adaptation of the Swedish system it would not be necessary to create such an ombudsman system, but the sort of flexibility possessed by the United Kingdom Price Commission would probably be desirable.

The basic philosophy of the new Price Commission is to build up an efficiency audit, particularly of the leading British companies.

Sweden's Price and Cartel Office has powers greater than those of the United Kingdom Price Commission to order businesses to produce data. The Monopolies Commission is the only body with such extensive powers of access to information.

The putting together of the two bodies with greater powers ranging widely in the monitoring of efficiency as well as pricing policies in industry, would be a potent competition agency. Probably the OFT would also be given greater powers in tackling "restrictive" practices

### Verdict soon on NEB's finance role

By Our Industrial Editor

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is hoping to make a statement within the next few weeks on the financial duties of the National Enterprise Board.

The NEB has an interim capital structure, but the Government is taking the view that final decisions on capital arrangements need not delay the outcome of Treasury and Department of Industry negotiations on financial duties in respect of the board's investments.

On problem, of course, is the difficulty in setting target returns on capital employed in British Leyland and Rolls-Royce as these companies face obvious difficulties. It is known that consideration of rates of return to be earned on other investments is well advanced.

With Treasury approval and after consultation with Mr Leslie Murphy, the NEB's chairman, Mr Varley is statutorily required to determine the board's various financial duties so that they can achieve an adequate return on the capital employed.

In a statement, it is likely that Mr Varley will need to make some allowance for Leyland's performance, particularly when Mr Michael Edwards, the new chairman, first only just begun reshaping the organization and will no doubt wish to review Leyland's corporate plan. This in turn concerns the NEB's own corporate plan, which is not yet available.

In the case of Rolls-Royce, however, the Government appears to have concluded that its future performance should be directed towards achieving a commercial rate of return.

However, a recent Treasury minute stated: "In setting the rate of return, account will certainly be taken of the need to provide for an adequate contribution towards the company's future capital needs."

### When 4 pc jobless adds up to full employment

What is full employment? The idealist might argue that it exists when everyone who wants a job and can work has a job. The realist will contend that it must be defined in terms of unemployment, as there will always be some people at least temporarily out of work owing to the very structure of modern capitalist society.

American law is no guide to the solution to this question. The real employer, since 1946, the major force of legislation that specifically commits the government to take all necessary actions to secure high employment, fails to set a specific figure.

To remedy this, Senator Hubert Humphrey and Representative Augustus Hawkins sought some years ago to promote a Bill that defined full employment as existing when no more than 3 per cent of the workforce was on the dole.

The proposal caused acute academic controversy, and while many academics have agreed that a 3 to 4 per cent unemployment range was a realistic definition of full employment, a decade or two ago, many scholars now believe it is not realistic.

Mr Humphrey and Mr Hawkins battled for their Bill, not just against the academics, but more important, against the Republicans and the powerful business lobbies.

Many businessmen feared the Bill would lead to the establishment of large new government bureaucracies, more economic planning (which Mr Humphrey favours), and multitudes of public works programmes.

The net effect, the critics said, would be an undermining of the free enterprise system and a sharp inflationary increase in the Federal government budget deficit.

The Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, however, became a rallying point across the nation for liberal Democrats, and last year Mr Jimmy Carter knew he had to support it to win his party's nomination and the Presidential election. Since he took office in January he has sought to avoid the controversial hot potato, but finally he has reached an agreement.

A Bill will go to Congress next year, but the President has managed to ensure that it does not come to full employment as his Government's top economic policy priority. Instead, fighting inflation is given even rank.

Indeed, the President has so managed to change the Bill that its passage by Congress should give no sleepless nights to conservatives. The measure will be largely symbolic, establishing a definition for full employment at the 4 per cent jobless level on the statute book for the first time—a definition many academics believe reflects the idealism of Mr Humphrey and Mr Hawkins, rather than the realities of the modern American economy.

Frank Vogl

### In brief

#### International Chamber to vote on bribery code

British and American businessmen will tomorrow press industrial leaders from more than 30 countries to accept international measures aimed at curbing bribery and corruption in business and politics.

The council of the International Chamber of Commerce will be asked to vote on proposals put forward by a special commission, chaired by Lord Sturges, which has already significantly softened its original recommendations in an effort to accommodate strong European criticism.

#### Thames Board Mills plans \$60m expansion

Investment of nearly £60m is planned by the Unilever subsidiary, Thames Board Mills for a substantial expansion of its factory at Workington in Cumbria. If the project goes ahead, it will be the largest investment undertaken in the British paper and board industry for several years.

The project is subject to Government approval for loans and grants of between £5m and £20.5m being made available towards its cost under the Industry Act.

#### Balfour Beatty projects

Balfour Beatty Construction has announced contracts worth more than £4m. The largest, valued at £1.6m, is for road and bridge works in Southampton. The others are for a water pumping station at Nottingham and defence at Cleethorpes and construction works for a new refinery on Merseyside.

#### £1.45m bridge contract

John Howard, civil engineer, has won a contract for a £1.45m bridge on the A166 at Consett, Durham.

### CBI studies 'inflationary' Employment Act awards

By Our Industrial Editor

A detailed investigation has been started by the Confederation of British Industry into the impact on companies of Schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act. Under this section of the Act higher wages can be won for workers whose terms and conditions are below general levels for comparable jobs elsewhere.

In the meantime the CBI has expressed its concern to the Government about what it calls seriously inflationary and disruptive implications of Schedule 11 claims against employers.

Although the statutory provision was not brought in until January this year, the Central Arbitration Committee has already dealt with 100 claims, and there are many more in

the pipeline awaiting decisions. Schedule 11 sets out a procedure whereby a trades union can put in a claim to the committee that an employer is either not observing recognized conditions where they exist by national or industry agreements, or there are no recognized terms, the employer is not following the relevant general level of terms and conditions.

The CBI says a number of unsatisfactory decisions have been drawn to its attention, including highly inflationary awards, and others that upset longstanding differentials or disrupt company industrial relations structures. It is also claiming that decisions so far lack consistency.

The confederation is now asking all companies and employers' organizations to help to monitor every Schedule 11 award in preparation for further submissions to the Government.

### Suspended chiefs of Rome bank not to be replaced yet

From John Barle

Rome, Nov 27—Banco di Roma is to remain for the present without new joint managing directors in place of Signor Mario Barone and Signor Giovanni Guidi, who have been suspended pending the investigation of possible charges against them in connection with the Sindona affair.

Instead a board meeting at the end of last week decided to give additional powers of direction and coordination to Signor Leopoldo Medugno, the chairman, and to strengthen the bank's executive committee.

Signor Barone and Signor Guidi have been formally notified by a Milan magistrate that charges are being investigated against them of concealing or suppressing documentary evidence of illegal currency

exports to Switzerland by clients of the Sindona bank. The alleged offences date back to the second half of 1974, when Banco di Roma took over the main Italian banking and property interests of Signor Michele Sindona shortly before the collapse of his empire.

Signor Medugno came to Banco di Roma only last year to he is not personally involved in the events under investigation.

Meanwhile reports circulated a weekend that a rescue operation is being discussed for the big ex-Sindona property company Società Generale Immobiliare in which Banco di Roma still has an 11 per cent holding.

The plan, according to these reports, would be for Generale Immobiliare to lighten its serious indebtedness by disposing of properties to creditor banks.



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## MANAGEMENT

## Green Shield's road to redemption

For Green Shield stamps, which in June lost about 20 per cent of its business through the defection of Tesco, the road to redemption may lie through sales of tin of soup for 2p, tin of baked beans for 1p each and packs of 20 Rothman's cigarettes for 36p.

To get these prices customers hand over Green Shield stamps as well as cash in about 1,000 supermarkets.

The discount scheme was launched last week as one of a series of measures by Green Shield to recover from the loss of Tesco, which was its biggest customer.

It involves a radical shift in policy. For the first time shoppers will be allowed to use trading stamps in part exchange for selected lines of groceries in the stores that take part. Previously stamps could be redeemed only by the booklet (of 1280 stamps) for durable goods, or cash at Green Shield's own chain of "gift" centres.

The scheme is aimed at attracting new franchise holders as well as stamp collectors. For shoppers it cuts down the time taken saving up the stamps; as they need collect only a quarter of a book, or 320 stamps.

More importantly, it enables supermarket franchise holders to advertise eye-catching discounts of 80 per cent or more as a response to Tesco's price-cutting campaign.

The possibility that the link with Tesco, one of Green Shield's oldest customers might be broken became apparent as early as February, when talks started on renewing the contract.

It was recognized from the beginning that a break with Tesco would have serious consequences for Green Shield. The 700 franchises held by the group, estimated to be worth £15m, represented about a fifth of Green Shield's turnover.

At this stage the company, which was also running into difficulties from petrol franchise holders, who accounted for 45 per cent of turnover, started to look urgently for new ideas. An executive team, including Mr Tom McAuliffe, then joint managing director of Argos (Green Shield's sister company), came up with the "Super Discount" plan.

The timing of the launch, the day before the much publicized announcement of Tesco's first financial results since dropping trading stamps, is unlikely to have been accidental. Tesco's figures show that a 40 per cent improvement in turnover gained mainly from replacing stamps with direct price cutting, had not been matched



The loss of the 700 Tesco franchises, representing a fifth of turnover, posed serious problems for the Green Shield trading stamp company. A "Super Discount" scheme, which allows stamps to be traded for groceries, was one of the answers devised by a team led by Chief Executive Mr Tom McAuliffe (above).

with an equivalent rise in profits.

By coinciding with these disastrous results, Green Shield undoubtedly hoped that its new scheme would carry more weight with any franchise holders contemplating following Tesco's example.

It is too soon to gauge the success of Green Shield's "Super Discount" plan in Britain. But in America, where the system has been in use for the last four or five years, the preliminary signs are that the scheme is proving popular—it will go some way towards recouping the company's lost business.

Green Shield's charges to franchise holders are based on their turnover, at a rate varying between 2 and 21 per cent depending on the nature and size of the outlets. In return it claims to achieve for new franchise holders an increase in sales of 30 per cent in the first

four weeks of operation compared with the preceding four weeks.

Mr McAuliffe, who moved in as chief executive in September, says that it is customary to reinvest the first year's profit from a new franchise holder in extra promotion to see that the turnover increase is maintained.

However, before implementing its plans to win new grocery business, the company decided first to tackle its petrol filling station problems. It had become common practice for garages faced with intense price competition to charge motorists who accepted stamps a higher price for their petrol. In essence, Mr McAuliffe says, they were selling trading stamps—a practice which was considered to be undesirable on several counts.

The decision was taken to clamp down on double pricing, even though it was recognized that this would mean some loss of business. At least 300 of the 8,000 garages which operated trading stamps chose to opt out altogether. Of the remainder at least 2,000 co-

operated fully with a "fair deal" publicity scheme in which Green Shield gave 120 stamps free to customers.

As well as striving to build up its revenue and bring recalcitrant franchise holders into line, Green Shield has also sought to cut costs. In July, a month after Tesco departed, 30 of the 500 head office staff were made redundant as part of a purge on administrative overheads.

The number of "gift" shops has been reduced from 89 to 54, with the loss of 261 full-time jobs and 287 part-time staff.

The latest "Super Discount" move, by enabling exchanges to be made through supermarkets, greatly increases the redemption facilities at little extra cost—though working again from American experience, Mr McAuliffe expects that a total of only about 15 per cent of trading stamp exchanges will be made for groceries.

One reason for this, is that the supermarkets, although quicker and more convenient for shoppers, in fact offer poorer value to dedicated stamp collectors. The exchange value of a book of 1280 stamps (if traded in for cash they have a face value of £0.32p each) is estimated at 72p through the redemption centres, while the "Super Discount" plan provides for a minimum redemption value of only 52p per book.

In fairness, the grocery lines selected for the scheme are likely to be further discounted by the supermarkets themselves. Furthermore, there are various "double stamp" and "bonus offer" promotion schemes in Green Shield's own pipeline which will halve the £8 which collectors would need to spend in the normal course of events to get their quarter book of stamps.

Mr McAuliffe is confident that the new measures will more than pull Green Shield through the crisis. He is in the middle of redefining the traditional redemption centres and the catalogues which collectors use, and is much more inclined to look forward than back.

Moreover, for the financial year which ended earlier this month he expects to show a profit, though obviously this will be appreciably lower than the (pre-tax) figure of £3.3m recorded for 1976.

Turnover is expected to be about 10 per cent below the £77m of last year.

Patricia Tisdall

## Films keep the eyes open to danger

There is of course no shortage of the nifty dangers it flourishes all around us, the more thickly we increase the complexity of living, and it is natural that there should be increasing interest in the flower of safety that Heston saw as his companion.

That interest fostered the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974—a formidable piece of legislation that lays on employers (and, as it sometimes forgotten, on employees) a duty of caring about safety, both from injury and from health hazards.

The same interest has long been reflected in a steady stream of safety films. The Health and Safety Executive are themselves involved in film making, ranging over a wide field. Thus *Guarding of power presses* is a strictly factual explanation of the power presses regulations, for a necessarily limited specialist audience, while *All in the day's work* is of much more general interest, as an account of a day in the life of a factory inspector.

Another film from the executive, *Anachee*, is about the dangers that surround children playing on farms, a grim 27 minute story for schools and agricultural audiences. The reason for the film is of course the number of children who are killed and injured each year on farms; it was the same kind of need that prompted British Rail's quite different film *Finishing line* which caused some controversy back in the spring.

How far can one teach children about danger without outwearing their desirable spirit of enquiry and adventure? By the same token, how far are safety regulations for adults checks on productivity?

For although workers' carelessness is at least as fruitful a source of injury as employers' neglect, so also is the laudable desire of conscientious men and women to get on with the job in hand as quickly as possible. A year or two back Imperial Chemicals' Insurance made a suspense classic in *And then there were two*, where the damage was caused by one year worker's error in a situation rather than carelessness.

The Ceramics, Glass and Mineral Training Board, which this year sponsored *Intensive care*, a study of the consequences of industrial carelessness, had earlier made *One green bottle*, in which we saw an accident analysed in court, with layers of management responsibility exposed.

Aid who was responsible for the fatal trench-collapse in *No questions asked*, the very moving story with which the National Federation of Building Trades Employers was a gold award in West Berlin this autumn.

As in *Intensive care*, one small careless action can weld with others to produce catastrophe, and even without individual carelessness too often puts others at risk.

*Safety in the forest*, one of a trio of safety films from the Furniture and Timber Industry Board, is a cautionary tale in George with slap-happy Charlie, both of them engaged in forestry, and shows the variety of hazards (with one particularly serious shot) to which all Carlires expose themselves.

When *Fire starts*, from Millbank Films, has acquired an unforeseen and undesired topicality. Its principal purpose is to show how small fires can be prevented from becoming big fires. The main point, to get the fire brigade on the scene as soon as possible, is one which has been heavily borne in on us lately.

Safety is also the concern of manufacturers of safety products, and RCB Angus made *The crew safety vehicle* to show the merits of their almost uncrushable driver's cab for fire engines and other emergency appliances.

Set of safety films can remind one of more than firemen's dangers. Probably few office workers consider how much more dangerous than their own way of life is the life of modern industrial workers.

True, we have another Millbank Film, *Have a good day*, to encourage care in the office, and in it we are shown the possibility of accidents in even our most secure surroundings. There are in fact 5,000 serious office accidents a year. But the frightful variety of things that happen in factories, on ships, on building sites and on farms, do seem to make offices seem relatively safe places.

Eynon Smart

Films obtainable from: British Transport Films: *The finishing line*, free loan. Central Film Library: *All in the day's work*, £20; hire, one day £5, 50p each further day; *Anachee*, £33; free loan; *Guarding of power presses*, £61; hire, one day £5, 50p each further day. Millbank Films: *And then there were two*, £150; *Have a good day*, £22; hire, one day £5, 50p each further day; *Intensive care*, £160; *One green bottle*, £150; *When fire starts*, £160; hire all five films £20 for three days, £25 a week. Random Film Library: *The crew safety vehicle*, free loan. Training Films International: *Whistlestop*, No questions asked, £190; hire, £19 for two days; *Safety in the forest*, £245; hire, £15 for two days. (All prices add VAT)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A fault in the law on unfair dismissal

From Mr Christopher Waud. Sir, In your report on the parliamentary debate on industrial tribunals (November 21) you cite the views of various members of Parliament and, in particular a criticism from one who likened the results of unfair dismissal cases to a "fruit machine" where claimants had "nothing to lose and something to gain".

May I make two observations? First, if the results of claims are as chaotic, then a great deal of the blame must be laid at the door of Parliament which has legislated some extremely complex and diffuse Acts for the tribunals and Courts of Appeal to interpret. For instance, prior to August 3, there were inconsistencies in the approach of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to some cases of constructive dismissal, namely that in some the contractual test was applied whereas in others it was the reasonableness test, but on that day the tribunal decided that the contractual test should be applied forthwith.

On October 4 the Employment Appeal Tribunal held that the previous decision was wrongly decided in view of an unexpected decision in the Appeal and that the reasonableness test was the correct one. On November 15 this was overruled by the Court of Appeal which said that the test should be contractual; and this remains the law for the present.

All this could have been avoided if the Act specifically stated which test should be applied. Secondly, it is not accurate to say that a claimant has nothing to lose, as legal aid is available only for advising and not for representation before the industrial tribunal. Further, a successful claimant cannot recover his legal costs against his employer (except in rare instances). Hence, a dismissed employee, who may still be without a job, will have to pay for his own lawyer out of his dwindling resources, which, I suggest, must be a restraining influence on him, especially as there is an inevitable delay before his case can be heard and when he has time for reflection.

Furthermore, if the industrial

tribunal find that the employee is partly responsible for his own dismissal, then his award will be reduced pro-rata, and this might well equate with or be less than his legal expenses.

For the employer on the other hand, the costs will probably be relatively small, and any, in any event, probably tax deductible.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER WAUD, Lamb House, Temple, London EC3Y 7AS, November 23.

From Mr W. G. Francis. Sir, Mr Morley (November 21) seems to have completely missed the point of my original letter: that, as far as independent companies are concerned, the Employment Protection Act is a deterrent to any expansion which involves the taking on of additional employees.

To say that we should not complain because similar laws prevail in the EEC is nonsense. What I and my business friends in Europe want is that the legislation on independent companies should be amended as soon as possible. Much of this legislation can be borne easily by public companies and nationalised industries. They are equipped to deal with it. They have legal departments. But it is an intolerable burden for those in the independent sector.

Few will disagree with the principles which prompted the introduction of these new laws. Our concern is that the people who drafted the legislation appear to be so remote from the realities of actually running businesses that they were totally unaware of the counterproductive effect this legislation would have on smaller companies. One is forced to the conclusion that it has been drafted by academics for implementation by bureaucrats.

Yours faithfully, W. G. FRANCIS, Francis and Lewis Limited, Fairview Road, Cheltenham, GL52 2EW, Gloucestershire, November 22.

## Monopolies report on architects

From Mr John Burkett. Sir, The problem with lengthy government reports as that by the Monopolies Commission on architects services (213 pages) is that they are seldom read by anyone except those who are directly affected and therefore any criticisms which they may have is immediately suspect of being biased and probably is.

May I therefore suggest through your columns that anyone who is likely to come under the scrutiny of the Monopolies Commission should read this report as it would appear to contain some very disturbing elements which may well influence the form of future reports.

The terms of reference are very narrowly prescribed and amount in effect to whether the architectural profession in operating a mandatory scale of fees is acting against the public interest. The commission states certain obvious criticisms of this practice which are mainly that it reduces incentive to minimise the architects' costs and that in the absence of competitive pressure clients pay more for the architects' services than they need.

Evidence has been taken from both suppliers and users of architects' services the majority of whom do not support these criticisms. Some users have reservations but the greater part including all public users are generally in support of the present system.

Methods of charging in other countries are also examined. In all EEC countries there is some form of mandatory fee scale while in the United States where one would expect a free-for-all and where fee scales were abolished as recently as 1972 there is current rumour of a return to a mandatory scale. The report is written by members of the portfolio invested overseas has declined from 30% to 45%.

In this country the market has done better than seemed likely when one considers the financial state of the country a year ago. The lean negotiated with the International Monetary Fund last year had conditions attached to it which eventually forced public sector spending into some semblance of control. Provided public sector spending remains so, there is a chance that the private sector might expand if only there were the incentive to do so. As yet, that incentive does not exist. Our economy remains stagnant, our inflation rate is still too high, but in government circles there seems to be an awareness that, if investment is needed, some incentive has to be given.

For all our shortcomings, the foreman seems to have changed his mind about us. North Sea oil is fast replacing oil imports, our perennial balance-of-payments crises have come to an end, and the foreigner wants our currency again. A rising pound should mean lower import prices and therefore a reduction in our inflation rate; on the other hand it also means higher export prices and perhaps a loss of export market share. However, our improving outlook will be in jeopardy if the government fails to stand firm on the subject of incomes. The wages offensive has just begun and in the public sector a situation similar to that in 1974 could easily develop.

In America, the recovery from the recession has slowed down and interest rates have been rising due to an exceptional rise in the money supply. The most serious problem in America is the energy situation, for which there is no quick solution. The demand for oil continues to grow, and with half America's oil being imported there is a substantial balance of trade deficit. Despite this, the relationship between the levels of American and British markets is becoming such that it may soon be worth switching funds into America.

Copies of the Annual Report, containing the Chairman's statement to shareholders in full, may be obtained from the Secretary, Garmore Investment (Scotland) Limited, Ashley House, 181-195 West George Street, Glasgow G4 6HL.

Redundancies in shipyards only delayed. From Mr H. V. T. Blund. Sir, The Department of Industry and British Shipbuilders claim that the £115m shipbuilding order from Poland will save the equivalent of 8,000 jobs in the industry for a year. The Government is providing a subsidy direct to Poland from the shipbuilding intervention fund of about £30m.

It is interesting to note that unemployment pay for a year for 8,000 men would only come to about £20m. The Government is just delaying the time when large-scale redundancies in the shipbuilding industry will have to be made, by securing orders at any cost.

Yours faithfully, H. V. T. BLUND, University of Southampton, Hampshire, November 22.

## Getting UK industry on the move

From Sir Derek Ezra. Sir, I would like to refer to Mr Ronald Burt's article in your issue of November 17, the public policy, in my opinion, identifies a major economic choice now facing Britain.

In a drastically balanced situation a number of things are beginning to go right, even though there are risks in some directions. But there is one underlying weakness, which is the sluggishness of industrial growth. It more spending power is released by further tax reductions or other means, it is essential that this should be accompanied by a suitable degree of growth in industrial production. If not, the effect in the past years will be to stick in more imports and to weaken our industrial potential still further. The fact that this could now be masked by North Sea oil revenues would only make the day of reckoning the more serious.

It is for this reason that the British Institute of Management has launched its Spar campaign (standing for Strategy, Performance and Utilization of Resources in industry). There is no simple answer to the problem of reactivating growth in British industry, particularly with overseas markets in mind. That is why the BIM campaign seeks to encompass all the main aspects of industrial endeavour. Equally, there is no single group in the community which can put this right. That is why the BIM campaign is open to all who are involved in industrial activities—government, management, trade unions and, not least, consumers.

But the campaign recognizes that the initiative and the main-driving in any campaign to get British industry moving must rest with managers. It is our aim to involve as many managers as possible in this offensive for growth, and to make it a joint effort of management bodies already actively supporting the campaign.

Yours faithfully, DEREK EZRA, Chairman of Council, British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London, WC2E 8PT, November 21.

have reached the conclusions which they have, although it becomes increasingly apparent throughout the text that they have allowed themselves considerable latitude in subjective judgments. There is little understanding of the professional problems involved and a cynical disregard of the direct effect of recessions on the building industry. The logical extension of these conclusions is for unions to be placed under the scrutiny of the commission, for professors to be paid according to the value placed on them by their students and for QCs to be paid by results.

I would hesitate to say that the issues have been prejudged although the haste with which the minister has accepted the conclusions and recommendations is open to criticism. The report was presented to Parliament and I trust that Parliament will read it and ask the appropriate questions.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BURKETT, 10-14 Macklin Street, London WC2E 8NF, November 23.

## The Scottish National Trust Company Limited

1977 asset value per ordinary stock unit—a new record

The net asset value at 30th September 1977 is up by 21% to 19.3p per unit, which is a new record: earnings and dividends are both up by 13%, so altogether it has been a good year for the company. During the year overseas borrowing has been increased but, due to the much better performance of the British market, the proportion of the portfolio invested overseas has declined from 30% to 45%. In this country the market has done better than seemed likely when one considers the financial state of the country a year ago. The lean negotiated with the International Monetary Fund last year had conditions attached to it which eventually forced public sector spending into some semblance of control. Provided public sector spending remains so, there is a chance that the private sector might expand if only there were the incentive to do so. As yet, that incentive does not exist. Our economy remains stagnant, our inflation rate is still too high, but in government circles there seems to be an awareness that, if investment is needed, some incentive has to be given.

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In America, the recovery from the recession has slowed down and interest rates have been rising due to an exceptional rise in the money supply. The most serious problem in America is the energy situation, for which there is no quick solution. The demand for oil continues to grow, and with half America's oil being imported there is a substantial balance of trade deficit. Despite this, the relationship between the levels of American and British markets is becoming such that it may soon be worth switching funds into America.

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## NEWMAN-TONKS LIMITED

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## CONTINUED EXPANSION OVERSEAS

Extracts from the circulated Statement of Mr. Michael L.B. Wright (Chairman):

I am pleased to be able to report an increase of approximately 70% in the pre-tax profit, compared with 1976, with a figure for the year of £1,725,000. Sales for the year were £20 million compared with £18.3 million. The directors recommend a final dividend of 2.83p per share, making a total of 3.63p per share for the year—the maximum permitted.

The general recession in the construction industry has obviously had an influence on the performance of the two principal divisions of the Group—hardware and engineering. Nevertheless they have both performed remarkably well against their sales budgets.

Our Australian and South African companies have put in creditable performances and have more than retained their share of a temporarily declining market. Since the year-end we have acquired Parow & Wright Limited of Williamstown, Victoria, Australia, manufacturers of plumbing fittings.

We believe there is an increasing growth area for property protection equipment and we have recently launched a system which has been specifically designed for domestic and small commercial premises. In addition an agreement has been signed with an Italian group of companies to market their extensive range of security and control equipment in the United Kingdom.

We have recently concluded agreements with two companies in North America to distribute a selected range of our products, a significant breakthrough in this area for us.

The forecasts we have prepared for the current financial year are encouraging, order books for most of our companies at the moment are more buoyant than the corresponding period last year and we believe we shall reap the benefits of the considerable capital expenditure on plant and modernisation which we have incurred over the past year.

## A romantic view of leadership?

One of the main preoccupations of senior managers today is to reassess their role as leaders.

As legal requirements become more complex and as trade unions extend their areas of interest, one of the main effects is to enhance the role of bureaucracies at the expense of limiting the scope for individual initiative.

This is a source of great concern for many managers, and is particularly irksome for the manager whose natural style is idiosyncratic.

One of the leading exponents in British industry today of a strongly personalized, charismatic style of management is Peter Prior, chairman of H. P. Bulmer, the cider makers, and he has now produced a slim book in which he proclaims the role of leadership over bureaucracy.

There would be wide agreement with much of what Mr Prior has to say, as for instance, about the need for clearly defined responsibilities and objectives. But it is in the nature of declarations of faith, which is essentially what this book is, that enthusiasm may overwhelm balance and Mr

Prior surely goes too far in saying: "The true and justified role of management science is to ensure that a management environment exists in which personal leadership can freely operate."

Management science, if indeed it is truly a science, has several roles and the study of it was stimulated at least in part by the inadequacies of personal leadership. If there is a danger today that management science may inhibit good individual leadership, it may also help to limit the damage of bad leadership.

It is a paradox of modern life that as society becomes more and more concerned to promote the greatest good of the greatest number, the methods by which this is to be achieved become ever more desiccated. Mr Prior is plainly a romantic and therefore somewhat at odds with the grain of some of the more formalized aspects of contemporary commercial life, but romanticism does make a refreshing change from the prevailing earnestness.

\* Leadership is not a bowler hat, by Peter J. Prior (David and Charles, £1.95).

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Problems ahead for fund managers

Now that the monetary authorities have successfully engineered a sharp and speedy correction to short term interest rates, what next? Both gilt and equity markets responded well on Friday to the corrective action, fostering hopes that we may now have a base for a pre-Christmas rally. It would be foolish, however, to suppose that critical questions do not remain to be answered.

What the authorities have done so far is to reiterate, for the second time in the space of a month, that control of the money supply continues to hold a predominant place in economic strategy. What we still do not know, nor for that matter do they, is whether they have yet done enough. What is still awaited is a firm indication of what is happening to bank lending. The October figures may have been a quick.

There is a feeling that the boost to corporate liquidity through the speeding of overseas remittances ahead of the rise in sterling may have worked itself out. The potential supply/demand situation for money remains uncertain, however, and it is too early to say whether the actions so far taken by the authorities are going to be the end of the story.

The next major point of importance is institutional appetite. Ideally, the Government Broker will want to find the right level for the 1992 "tap" stock as quickly as possible. The hope then will be that the institutions will feed, and that the more they feed the more they will be convinced that the money supply will be back under control and that gilts can move higher.

This morning, of course, will bring a massive £528m call on Exchequer 101/1977. But the institutions have not been committing money to the market for some weeks now and they could, of course, run down their short-term liquidity safe in the knowledge that it could be made good again by late year-end cash flow.

What is far less clear, however, is what fund managers wish to show their trustees at the end of this quarter. Do they wish to show themselves as being fully invested? Or do they wish to show how they have been clever enough to have reduced their commitments within spitting distance of the top of the market?

If the market does go well over the top, those who are uneasy about 1978 should be asking themselves the following questions. Is there a potential conflict between economic growth and control of the money supply in 1978-79? If it seems likely that there is, will there be a better opportunity to alter the balance of one's portfolio?

### Banks

### Relief

### at last

It is a working certainty that the clearing banks will be raising their base rates during the next day or two and the only question is by how much. After the trials of recent weeks it will have been a real cause for relief that Minimum Lending Rate, and accordingly the structure of short-term rates, should have been allowed to rise by as much as two points last week.

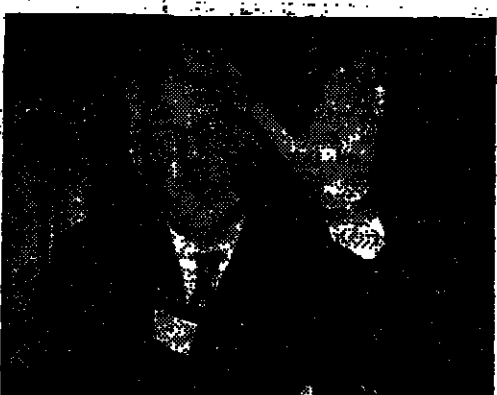
With base rate at 6 per cent the banks have been making little enough profit on their domestic branch operations, and had the rate fallen by a further half point they would have been barely breaking even. At the same time the banks have been obliged to suffer an unprecedented margin between their deposit rates and those offered by rivals like the building societies and the national savings bank.

But it is doubtful that the banks will feel justified in matching the rise in MLR with a full two point increase in base rates. Because of the profit squeeze resulting from the fall in interest rates this year the banks have resisted lowering their base rates fully in 1976.

They may decide now to go up by 1-1½ points, however, and possibly to widen the gap between base and deposit rates at the same time, as a further buttress to profit. In profit terms, indeed, the clearing banks could well be at a turning point. As I discuss below, a consumer spending revival, if not already in progress, is on the way. Capital investment is already modestly on the upturn and stock levels, which have

recently been running down, must surely begin to pick up again early next year. That in turn will mean rising loan demand.

The problem for bank shares, which wretchedly underperformed the market until about a month ago, is the possibility that the authorities could turn to rationing of loan demand through the "corset", although at the moment they appear reluctant to do so. Secondly the banks have still to report results reflecting the dismal trading conditions of the present year.



Sir James Blair-Cunyghame, chairman of National and Commercial Banking Group.

National and Commercial will provide a forebaste with its figures this week. Bank shares have, in any case, rebounded quite sharply in the past month. Psychologically, though, rising interest rates are always good for banks and they might show further relative strength in the coming weeks. Whether there will be much scope for significant absolute price rises is another matter, however.

### Profits

### Second

### thoughts

Disappointment over company profits has now passed through two distinct stages. The first followed the poor first half results from GKN. The second started with Courtaulds and culminated in the sharp fall in ICI's third quarter profits last week. While it was possible to some extent to shrug off GKN's figures as being particular to engineers close to the steel industry, the weight of evidence from a food processing like Unilever through chemicals and capital goods group like Renold is causing some sharp downgrading of forecasts in stock-brokers' offices.

The common thread running through the disappointment is the very flat conditions in Europe. Overseas profits generally have been worse than in the United Kingdom, where, at last, the indicators are turning upwards with some signs of reviving consumer expenditure and a 5 per cent third quarter rise in manufacturing investment, but sharply reduced stock profits and a lack of gains from a declining pound, have added to a grim picture.

It has become clear that forecasters were misled by an over-optimistic first quarter when OECD countries were expected to increase output by 4 per cent this year, margins in the United Kingdom were widening as demand apparently improved and the pound was increasingly competitive. The mood of optimism disappeared in the second quarter as involuntary stockbuilding led to the inevitable sell-off in the third.

Next year British manufacturers with a less competitive pound and higher rate of inflation will be competing in a continuingly slow-growing world economy.

Wood Mackenzie have reduced current year profits growth to about 13 or 14 per cent from 22 per cent estimated in June with an expected 10 per cent increase in the first half of next year and 20 per cent in the second. Hoare Govett is going for only 5 per cent next year after 20 per cent this and Phillips and Drew are currently revising their expected 20 per cent growth rate this year to about 15 per cent and bringing next year's forecasts down.

Gainers on the stock market could be companies benefiting from the rise in consumer spending at home without the disadvantages of Europe or the pound such as retailers, electricals and brewers.

The Government's nearest approach to a national plan—its industrial strategy based on tripartite consultation, and 39 sector working parties within the National Economic Development Office—is just over two years old.

Judging from past experience this means that it is at a turning point. For all previous planning exercises the national level have for one reason or another, economic or political, broken down at about that point in their effective lives.

In the present case it is not clear whether something real is happening or whether the whole thing is in danger of degenerating into a paper chase. The frequency with which foreign countries are used as an example of what practical things are being done does not inspire confidence across a broader front.

Of course, quick solutions to deep rooted problems should not be expected. For the moment, at least, judgment must be suspended.

Judgment about the need for planning is by no means suspended in a slim volume published this month by Mr Michael Shanks, lately of the

European Commission and now chairman of the National Consumer Council. As a book, it promises rather more than it delivers. It is, in the main, a short history of the National Economic Development Office and Council, charting the various waxings and wanings of its moon.

For anyone interested in the political history of planning in the last 20 years, it is a convenient trip down memory lane. Figures 10 to 15 years younger flit through the pages—Sir Robert Shone, Sir Donald MacDougall, Sir Ronald McIntosh, Sir Frederick Catherwood, Mr Aubrey Jones, Sir Frank Figueras.

In the main it is a recapitulation. Some judgments, like describing the original British Leyland merger merely as "a controversial" seem to dodge round evident failures in industrial and economic planning. It is also curiously short on analysis of why governments of every initial persuasion become forced into some kind of central planning and why the results of two decades of effort have been so thin.

It has extremely useful appendices

Hugh Stephenson

## National planning—for whom?

Mr Shanks is driven virtually as a statement of faith to assert that, while planning is no panacea, it is essential and we should therefore get on with it properly. It must be depressing to those in favour of planning that, although from the original NEDC (Green and Orange Books in 1963 to this Government's *An Approach to Industrial Strategy* in 1975) the firm commitment has been to raise the underlying rate of productivity increase in the British economy, that there appears to be appreciably lower today than it was in 1960.

All governments become drawn to planning because in our complex society and economy the powerful institution of price in the market place has not been able to provide a politically acceptable level of performance. There is no guarantee—some would say no likelihood—that planning will improve that performance. But as long as collectively we continue to be disappointed by that performance, so long will NEDC or something like it continue to have a role thrust upon it.

In one area, of course, everyone is

agreed that planning and planning agreements have been a triumph for success. The area is agriculture. That industry is run on the basis of the closest possible cooperation with a sponsoring ministry, with forecasts and agreed price levels and target production figures and the whole paraphernalia of planning advanced that its application broadly to industry would be unthinkable.

There is, though, a view, ably contested by the industry, that in this planning the interests of the consumer sometimes get overlooked. Certainly, there is a tendency in these matters for "tripartite" to mean the industry, the unions and the sponsoring Whitehall department.

It is perhaps therefore, ironic that in this book the new heart of the National Consumer Council should, so far as I can see, not once mention the protection of the consumer's interests as a problem, or an issue in its kind of planning.

\*Planning and Politics: the British Experience 1960-76, PEP, £5.50.

## An uncertain route in front of America's car makers

'Nearly half of all Americans already own cars and the declining birth rates of the 1950s and 1960s are going to be translated into a decline in new drivers in coming years'

small cars of its own, the Dodge Omni and the Plymouth Horizon. To deal forcefully with the small car market with imported products, the companies in Detroit are shaving profit margins. The Chevrolet now costs about \$124 less than the comparable Toyota Corolla at \$3,354.

Keeping prices down to compete effectively with foreign products and selling more, and more lower priced small cars translates into a lower earnings to sales ratio for the car manufacturers and this is developing just as the companies are having to embark on their most expensive and dramatic investment programme ever.

The new 1978 models to a large extent already represent a new era in United States car design. They are smaller, lighter, cleaner and more efficient in the use of fuel than many of the 1977 models. The top-selling Oldsmobile Cutlass, for example, is some 700 lb lighter this year at 3,200 lb and some 10 per cent more fuel-efficient.

Laws passed in Washington, however, demand more radical changes than these. By 1985 the average miles per gallon of car company model fleets must be raised to 27.5 from 18 at the moment. To achieve this substantial increase in efficiency the companies have no choice other than to make their cars still lighter. A 1976 model six passenger big General Motors car weighed about 5,000 lb but by 1985 it will be difficult for this company to offer cars weighing more than 3,000 lb.

Cutting the weight of cars is going to be all the harder because of tougher safety and pollution laws that force the manufacturers to add new equipment to their models. The days of the eight cylinder car are almost at an end and four, rather than six, cylinder engines may well become dominant before long.

The changes that this will demand in the way cars are made, the materials used in cars and basic engine designs, will be far-reaching; the average United States car today still has a 4.6 litre motor.

The car companies are experimenting more now with plastics, aluminium and graphite, and other alternative materials to steel. The moves to smaller and lighter cars already have had some impact on the United States steel industry, but they will have a much greater effect in coming years and the Carter Administration is fully aware of this as it now puts the final touches to its programme to assist the ailing steel industry.

The most beneficial effect on the changes now taking place will be in the energy area. Big oil consumption savings are bound to result, although



The Fairmont, a new compact, medium-sized car on the production line at Ford's Kansas City plant. The company hopes to sell more than 400,000 of them next year.

precisely how large these will be is still impossible to predict, given the continuing confusion in the Congress over energy policies and given the more general medium-term uncertainties regarding economic and international oil supply and pricing conditions.

Few people expect new car sales volumes in coming years to rise much beyond the 11 to 12 million a year level and it appears that such a level is the minimum that the four car producers need to stay in business and make the investments that are necessary, lower sales levels could prove disastrous for AMC and Chrysler.

The United States economy is growing at a sluggish rate and it will be a surprise to many economists if a real annual growth rate of more than 4 to 5 per cent can be sustained over the next few years. In addition, new car demand could well slow down for a number of reasons specifically related to cars.

Many Americans may well want to keep their big cars rather than exchange them for smaller models and thus there is a danger that trading-in will slow to the extent that it could depress overall new sales levels.

The car-using American public is now confronting all manner of cost pressures. Car insurance has been rising rapidly, while petrol prices

have also been advancing swiftly. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates, for example, that the average American might have to spend more than \$300 a year on petrol alone. In addition, car repair costs have been growing at a rapid rate.

The car companies have also continued to raise prices, with average price increases on the new 1978 models of 5.8 per cent or \$397 by Ford and by 5.7 per cent or \$405 by General Motors. The overall costs of running and buying cars and the general inflation level have resulted in a gradual lengthening of car loan repayment periods to close to four years compared with less than three years just a few years ago. The stretching-out of repayment terms could also lead to a lowering of overall trade-in rates.

Ensuring that new sales continue to grow and that new models are built in accordance with government laws and regulations will greatly tax the skills of the men in charge in Detroit. Their problems are widely appreciated, especially in the Congress, where too much attention appears to be focused on the latest good results and too little notice given to the future problems.

Frank Vogl

## Business Diary in Europe: Miss Roberts' farewell

Eirlys Roberts, Britain's first lady of consumerism and hitherto the Consumers' champion in Europe, goes to Buckingham Palace tomorrow to receive the insignia of a CBE, the honour awarded her in the jubilee honours.

Later in the week it will be announced in Brussels that she is stepping down from her job as director of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs, the tiny and embattled group which strives to make the consumer's voice heard in the din of the European market-place.

Editor of *Which?* magazine from its second issue and subsequently deputy director of its publishers the Consumers' Association, Miss Roberts has been energetically commuting to Brussels since 1973, when she was already of an age at which most women would be happy to retire.

The European bureau has a staff of only five with which to try to influence the Brussels bureaucracy of 7,000 and to counter the influence of agricultural and industrial lobbies. But it is no mean accomplishment to have welded Europe's disparate consumer groups into any union at all.

At present the bureau lacks Italian representatives, having been obliged to expel the Italians when it was discovered they had been receiving grants from industrial companies.

Lack of resources has obliged the bureau to concentrate on common agricultural policy, as the shoppers' principal bete noire. But if it has not been involved in steel discussions or



Miss Roberts, consumers' champion.

in the negotiations with developing countries over cheap textile imports, it has been able to welcome variable beef premiums as a first small step to reducing food prices in the shops and subsidising markets rather than production.

Another success was getting a European consumers' charter introduced and ensuring that consumers are at least fairly frequently consulted if, as yet, seldom heeded.

The hunt is on for a successor and the job will not be easy to fill. Unlike most in Brussels, she does not offer a salary worthy of a CBE. Ideally, the bureau would need a French speaking Ralph Nader, a young energetic lawyer with "charisma", a flair for publicity, and good political contacts.

In the absence of any such, the need for someone with French as first language in the office may have to wait. The runner is Benedicte Federspiel, a lawyer with the Danish consumer council whose

few good looks disguise her radical and ambitious approach to consumer politics.

The mere thought of having to pay taxes for the first time is sending shudders down the spines of most Spaniards, coaxed into the market place in these matters. But while they anxiously await the reforms which will bring this about, they are being assured that it will not be as horrible as it sounds. Jaime Anoveros, a member of the ruling Democratic Centre Union party and president of the parliament's budget committee, has told economists in a discussion on fiscal reform that the new taxes will not produce convulsions in the country's economic structure. Nor would they stifle private enterprise.

Taxes existed under Franco but few Spaniards bothered to pay them. Falsifying tax returns, or just not bothering to fill them in, became almost a national sport. One estimate put the number of habitual evaders as high as 76 per cent of eligible payers.

Now the government has the right to examine bank accounts and to imprison tax dodgers or falsifiers. However, the taxes themselves will still make Spain a haven compared with poor old Britain.

Slogans reading "Under Franco we lived better" started to appear on walls some time ago, but according to an opinion poll it would seem that this is quite false, despite the imminent change. Only 11 per cent agreed that life was better under the dictator while 52 per cent disagreed and 37 per cent said they did not know.

Daniel Loas, an enterprising French white collar worker in the building trade, has come up with an idea to turn the food rejected by the discriminating palates of his countrymen into fuel. Answer, the national research development agency, has backed his invention of turning the leftovers in the nation's dustbins into "logs" with a calorific content twice as high as fuel oil and much cheaper. The first factory to produce them (by fermenting the rubbish) is being inaugurated this week and another, is being built.

Not Fiat or Montedison but Agip, which extracts oil and sells petrol under the sign of the flame-breathing six-legged dog, is the biggest Italian manufacturing company, according to a study undertaken by the economic weekly *Il Mondo*.

The magazine is proudly putting on sale a booklet containing a list of the biggest 750 Italian companies, with the 200 leading banks, 70 insurance companies, 80 financial holding companies and 30 property companies.

It covers much the same ground as periodic studies by the merchant bank Mediobanca, but these are available not to the public but only to businessmen or applicants who make personal requests.

Calculating on the basis of turnover (5,886,535m lire or £3,924m in 1976) Agip is easily ahead of Fiat (3,849,610m lire or £2,566m), while the chemical giant Montedison

comes third with 2,734,623m lire (£1,823m).

The profit and loss column shows at many points as plain signs. By far the biggest profit maker is Fiat, with 66,456m lire net profit in 1976. On the other hand two state sector companies are well ahead of others with equipment to make their cars. Iveco (fourth in the list) at 130,255m lire in the red and the chemical group Anic (twelfth), with 108,001m lire.

With banks it is different. While big state-owned banks have brought many industrial firms to the brink of disaster, they have swelled coffers in the banking system. Nor a single loss is listed by *Il Mondo* among the leading 200.

A multinational and multi-lingual radio service, relaying news on EEC affairs to the Community, could be the outcome of a meeting in Brussels last week of broadcasters from the Nine. A working party has been set up to pursue the idea.

A central news room would be set up—probably at the BBC's headquarters in London which has the best facilities—from which a daily half-hour programme would be beamed to most of Northern Europe in French, English and German, and possibly to Italy as well.

The intention is that the Euro-service should go into operation experimentally for about four months to coincide with the first direct elections to the European Parliament.

If the broadcasting venture is successful, it could become a permanent feature of European radio services and be extended throughout the EEC.

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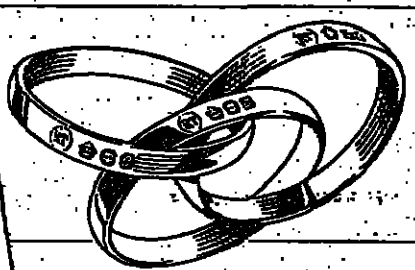


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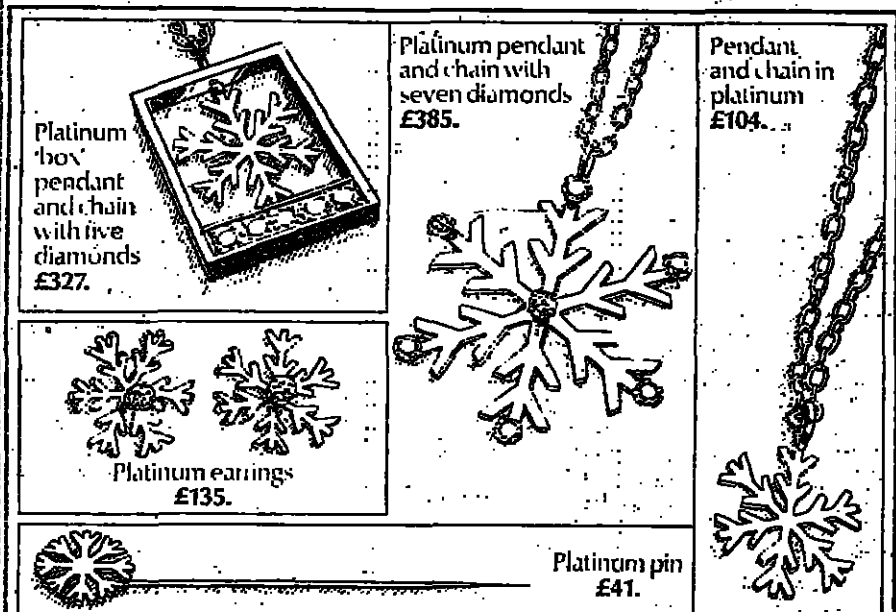


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